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PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE JOINT COMMAND MEETING HELD

JN211537Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday chaired a meeting of the joint command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current situation following the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

On the other hand, the Fatah Central Committee convened in Beirut yesterday evening. The discussion during the meeting revolved around current development on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

'ARAFAT MEETS FORMER LEBANESE PREMIER SALAM

JN231643Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday met with Sa'ib Salam, former Lebanese prime minister. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN221618Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, today met with Aleksandr Soldatov, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon. Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting brother Abu 'Ammar received an important message from the Soviet leaders. He also handed the Soviet ambassador a similar message to the Soviet leaders.

DIALOG AMONG PALESTINIAN FACTIONS CALLED FOR

JN212037Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The secretariat of the front of the forces rejecting capitulatory solutions and the political bureau of the democratic front have issued a joint statement on the treacherous attack launched by the 'Arafat-Abu Jihad gang against the Al-'Asifah bases in southern Lebanon. The following is the text of the statement:

On the morning of Wednesday, 19 April, a meeting was held between the secretariat of the front of the forces rejecting capitulatory solution and the political bureau of the democratic front. The meeting reviewed Palestinian and Arab issues, particularly the situation in Lebanon, and discussed the military confrontations that took place inside a camp of the Palestinian resistance. The meeting rejected any recourse to such methods in solving differences, whether within a single organization of among any of the various revolutionary factions. The meeting agreed that using such methods will harm the Palestinian revolution because this will inevitably help the enemy forces, which are ready to pounce on the revolution and which have been working for a long time to ignite inter-Palestinian fighting by creating differences and manipulating these differences to serve their own interests. The enemy forces want mainly to prevent the resistance from promoting its political stands in the face of the current very serious offensives.

These offensives are aimed at deflecting the resistance from effective struggle and from taking a firm national and united stand against the plots of the imperialists, the Zionists and their ally, As-Sadat. These offensives are also aimed at preventing the resistance from standing firmly in the face of As-Sadat's continued attempts to shed blood in Lebanon, particularly among the Palestinians. The meeting also agreed that fighting cannot be an alternative to a democratic and constructive dialog that lays the foundation for clear and sound relations among the factions of the revolution.

The meeting called on all factions to rely on democratic dialogs as the method to tackle the overall issue on the bases of internal unity and the unity of all revolutionary factions. Let our motto be: No to inter-Palestinian fighting; yes to the democratic dialog for solving the differences among the revolutionaries.

Long live the struggle for the unity of the revolutionary factions and against imperialism, Zionism, Arab reaction and their plots and projects that oppose the national interests of the Palestinian people.

[Signed] The secretariat of the front of the forces rejecting capitulatory solutions; the political bureau of the democratic front

BAGHDAD VOP: 'ARAFAT LAUNCHING 'CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY'

JN212116Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The 'Arafat leadership is launching a criminal offensive against the fighting bases which have rejected a cease-fire with the enemy and are adhering to the armed struggle as the only way to deal with this enemy. This offensive is not just a settlement of accounts within the PLO as some people may think. The 'Arafat leadership has tied itself completely to the settlement path with the enemy and to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance based on the settlement. The 'Arafat leadership suffers from the illusion that its deviating methods have come to fruition and that its participation in the settlement has become very near. Therefore, this leadership realizes that the only obstacle that stands in the way of realizing such a dream, shatters its calculations and makes the aim for which it has offered many concessions seem remote is the presence of the revolutionary bases which uphold--in ideology and practice--the path of armed struggle and its strategic goals. Therefore, this criminal offensive against the Palestinians and the Lebanese revolutionaries cannot be viewed in isolation from the Zionist aims and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots against the Arab nation.

Out of desperation the 'Arafat leadership launched its criminal offensive against the Fatah bases in an attempt to realize what the Zionists, the isolationists and the deterrent forces of the Syrian regime were unable to realize.

An-Nabatiyah Barracks Attacked

JN242110Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The day before yesterday certain groups belonging to Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, stormed the An-Nabatiyah barracks, which is under the control of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The attack was led by Officer Muhammad Salim, who stormed the barracks with his gang. The barracks is commanded by brother Abu Hamzah of the Progressive Socialist Party. The nationalist command of the barracks was evicted.

This treacherous attack is to pave the way for the handing over of the barracks to the army of the Sarkis government's agent, Victor Khuri, and the isolationists as part of the agreement reached between 'Arafat and the Lebanese Government.

The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has denounced this conspiratorial deed perpetrated by 'Arafat's and Abu Jihad's cliques under the guise of the Army of Lebanon. A special committee has been formed to investigate this new conspiratorial attack perpetrated by the liquidationists in the Palestinian arena.

ISRAELI ACTS AGAINST S. LEBANESE VILLAGERS REPORTED

JN242016Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon are still carrying out provocative acts against the people of the south who wish to return to their villages and those who remained there.

News reports received from the south say that the occupation authorities are still blocking the roads leading to the southern region. They have reinforced their roadblocks near the road to Al-Bazuriyah, Al 'Abbadiyah, Dayr Qanun [name indistinct]. The news reports also say that the chieftains of southern Lebanese villages, especially those of the Tyre district, today prepared to face the commander of the Zionist occupation forces as the deadline contained in the warning he issued to them approached. In this warning he demanded that they sign petitions calling on the Israeli forces to remain in southern Lebanon.

ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEETS IN KHARTOUM

NC221319Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Arab solidarity committee met at the people's palace in Khartoum this morning under the chairmanship of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The committee includes the foreign ministers of Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and the YAR.

Opening the meeting, President Numayri outlined Sudanese views on the committee's activity for achieving the tasks assigned to it in the next phase. It has been decided that the foreign ministers of the committee's member states will hold contacts aimed at clearing the Arab atmosphere and that President Numayri will at the same time continue his contacts with the Arab kings and presidents.

Committee Statement

JN231731Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 April--In a statement issued at the end of its meetings in Khartoum today, the Arab solidarity committee said that it will resume its meetings as soon as President Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the committee, ends his tour of Cairo, Damascus and other Arab capitals.

The statement also says that at its meeting today the committee resumed its discussions on finding a method to achieve the aims of insuring Arab solidarity and convening an expanded Arab summit. The committee expressed its appreciation of and thanks to President Numayri for his sincere efforts to form the committee and participate in its work.

President Numayri thanked the kings and presidents of the committee member states for participating in the work of the committee. President Numayri stressed that he will work patiently and perseveringly to achieve Arab solidarity because this is a necessary and urgent Arab aim at this stage.

The committee includes the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, the UAE and the YAR.

Foreign Ministers Leave

JN231455Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 April--The foreign ministers of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan left Khartoum at noon today at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Arab solidarity committee. The UAE foreign minister left to return to his country, whereas the Saudi and Jordanian foreign ministers left for Dakar to attend the meetings of the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers scheduled to be held there tomorrow.

In a statement prior to his departure from Khartoum, [Saudi Foreign Minister] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed optimism over the results of the meeting in restoring concord among the Arabs. He then said: We place big hopes on the success of the committee and hope that President Numayri's efforts will be successful in achieving Arab solidarity.

Riyad Comments

NC241341Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad stated on arrival in Cairo from Khartoum this morning that President Ja'far Numayri will hold urgent consultations with the Arab leaders to promote Arab unity of ranks and restore solidarity at this stage.

The Arab solidarity committee, he said, has agreed on its method of work and moves to be made in light of the committee's deliberations on Arab developments. The committee will hold another meeting after President Numayri's consultations.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY BLOW UP ISRAELI TRUCK

JN241957Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian fedayeen operating inside the occupied land continue their daring operations against the Zionist occupation authorities. Yesterday, a Palestinian revolutionary blew up an enemy military truck on the outskirts of occupied Nabulus. He hurled several incendiary charges at the truck, destroying it and killing all its occupants.

The enemy authorities have begun a large-scale combing operation in the Nabulus area in search of the revolutionaries. Numerous citizens have been arrested for interrogation regarding the incident.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI, BRITISH INTERIOR MINISTERS BEGIN TALKS

JN241457Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1322 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 24 April--His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, and Merlyn Rees, British secretary of state for Home Department, began talks at 1100 today. The British official arrived in Riyadh last evening on a 4-day official visit.

In a press statement given to SNA following the meeting, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stated that the talks were positive and fruitful. His highness expressed his hope that in view of the expertise the kingdom will be getting with regard to training and equipping the public security sectors with the cooperation of the British Home Department, we will in fact achieve all that we expect to achieve.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of interior; Gen Rayiz al-'Awfi, director of the public security; Dr Ibrahim (al-'Awaji), assistant minister of interior; 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Salim, secretary general of the National Security Council; Hashim Ma'tuk, under secretary of the Ministry of Interior for passports and civil status affairs; and Lt Gen 'Abdallah ash-Shaykh, commander of the border guards.

SAUDI, GABONESE TALKS BEGIN IN RIYADH

JN241404Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0941 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 24 April--Talks between Saudi Arabia and Gabon began in the royal court at Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1100 today. The talks were led by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency President Omar Bongo.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2d deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Excellency Dr Rashad Far'un, his majesty's special adviser; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad al-'Ali Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Latif al-Mulham, minister of state. On the Gabonese side, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying His Excellency President Omar Bongo.

SNA has learned that the talks revolved around bilateral relations and cooperation, issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic nations and the current situation in Africa.

UAE

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN231556Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 April--His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, UAE deputy prime minister, received here this morning Ribhi Hallum, head of the PLO office in the UAE. Following the meeting, Ribhi Hallum stated that he discussed with Shaykh Hamdan developments in the Arab region in general and in southern Lebanon in particular, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC231240Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has reaffirmed that Egypt has refused and still refuses to conclude a separate agreement with Israel because such an agreement would not achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. President as-Sadat described reports in certain Israeli and Arab newspapers on a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel as an attempt to provoke the Arabs or push them toward further disputes while well-meaning attempts are being made to bring the Arabs together.

In his interview in today's issue of OCTOBER magazine, the president said that even if peace is achieved between all the confrontation states and Israel without a just solution to the Palestinian problem, this would never result in the just and viable peace which the whole world is now insisting must be achieved.

Referring to reports on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's plans to visit Cairo, the president said the important thing is not successive visits to Cairo by Israeli officials because direct contact is no longer the issue. What is important is that there should be new ideas or viewpoints worth presenting and being considered, thus giving the meetings a meaning and a purpose.

He then turned to the campaign which is being launched by leftists and rightists and by old party elements in Egypt to cast doubts on the people's image and to tarnish Egypt's image at home and abroad. His excellency affirmed that the broad popular basis is sound and in good condition, that the people are more reassured and their mind is clearer and that they are stronger and firmer.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with OCTOBER magazine:

Question: In your speech to the U.S. National War College delegation, you announced that there have been no developments in the state of affairs between Egypt and Israel. You also failed to say what you expect to happen in the next few days. Does this mean that nothing has really changed? Or did you not want to deal with what is going on between Egypt and the United States and between the United States and Israel and with the various forms of pressure being exerted by the Western world to move the situation forward?

Answer: Actually nothing new has happened, although there are attempts to bring viewpoints closer. It is inappropriate to deal with these attempts because it is very easy for things to be misconstrued and to be exploited to the detriment of the exacting efforts being exerted to move peace forward. If there are differences of disputes or even attempts to fake disputes, then it is imperative for us not to be deceived by what we perceive. We have learned a great deal about the tricks involved in politics and played by politicians. We have also learned a great deal from the verbal, oratory and parliamentary "traps." Therefore, we must view with caution everything we are being told and be cautious in all of our responses to everything the other side is doing. It is proper to give everything its opportune time so that things will clear up for us.

Question: It has been reported that Moshe Dayan has offered to come to meet you. It has also been said that this offer was made through a friendly state. What is the significance of Moshe Dayan's visit following the visit of 'Ezer Weizman? Does this mean that Moshe Dayan has something better to offer than what Weizman offered?

Answer: The important thing is not the fact that Israeli officials should come one after the other. Contact already exists between us. I personally went to Jerusalem and Menahem Begin came to me. Therefore, direct contact is no longer the issue. What is important is that there be new ideas or new viewpoints worth presenting and worth being considered. In other words, it is imperative for such meetings to have a meaning and a purpose. However, if one person should come and another should go merely for the sake of saying he has come and returned or merely for the sake of saying that the contacts between Egypt and Israel have excluded the United States, which is a full partner in the issue, then this is not a serious position. This is playing with positions and badly exploiting these positions.

We passed through this phase, because the situation is far too serious to be an object for tampering with to be a tool for party maneuvers. I repeat that we must be alert to this so that we do not again fall victim to such political or party tricks, which I am well aware of. I know that the other side has justifications for such tricks, but there is nothing in these tricks that will justify or explain them in our eyes or convince us of them.

Therefore, it is now understood that if the other side has not arrived at any new ideas, then such meetings, even if they are held, will be meaningless. Perhaps you remember that I had announced that the meeting with Weizman had produced nothing new--and that was before Weizman even arrived back in Israel. We had announced this with the utmost clarity, and there is nothing which is any longer a secret to anyone. This is so because our cause is one and our objectives are clear. We have already announced what we want to the hundreds of millions of people--and we should remember this. Furthermore, nothing will frighten us if we are honest with ourselves and with others concerning every step we take toward peace, in the direction of peace or away from peace.

Question: There is a new theme in the Israeli press. This theme is also being echoed by some Western information media. According to this theme, a separate solution is the only way left for Egypt and Israel. It goes on to say that since Israel has not budged from its position and since Begin has not budged from his position, the next appropriate and definite move is for Egypt and Israel to reach a separate solution. According to this theme, if Egypt takes this move, the Arab states will follow its example and conclude agreements with Israel, thus solving the problem within a shorter period. What is the purpose of this campaign? Is it an attempt by Israel to move the situation? Or is it a test of the firmness of Egypt's position? Or is it a new attempt to further justify Arab division? Or is it the echo of a concealed desire by some confrontation states which Israel is expressing openly and which these states have not made known to Egypt?

Answer: I am aware of this theme. However, it will achieve nothing and will find no listeners. Even if it finds listeners, this theme will not go beyond our ears to our minds. Egypt has a well-known principled position. Egypt announced this position before the initiative. The theme of a separate solution existed during the first and second disengagement agreements. It was decisively proven that there was no separate solution and no intention to conclude a separate solution. This is all well-known, but people forget and leaders try to forget. Israel does not give up hope. It tries, it argues and it maneuvers.

I announced to the whole world in the Knesset: "I did not come to you in order to conclude a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel. This is not part of Egypt's policy. The problem is not between Egypt and Israel. Any separate peace between Egypt and Israel or between any confrontation state and Israel will not establish just and lasting peace in the whole area. Moreover, even if peace between all the confrontation states and Israel is achieved but no just solution is found for the Palestinian problem, this will not result in the just and lasting peace which the whole world today wants to see achieved."

I do not think there is any statement clearer than this one, which 1 billion people heard simultaneously.

When Begin came to Ismailia, the situation between us became even clearer--that is to say, the disagreement became clearer. There was no separate solution and there were no means for that. We stated then that the Israelis believe it is enough to grant autonomy to the Palestinians, while we believe that a Palestinian state must be established. This is still their position and our position, too. Therefore, there can be no separate solution between Egypt and Israel.

When I recalled the foreign minister from Jerusalem on 18 January, Egypt made a statement at the time saying that the foreign minister and his delegation had to withdraw from the talks so that the negotiations would not continue to move in a vicious circle and so that Israel would not seek secondary roads and move from one unsolved topic to another, not even on the agenda. The statement also said that Israel was still settling its account with the Arabs and with the entire world, and that this was not our concern. The fact that the Jews had been tortured and dispersed all over the world, does not mean there is any sense in the Palestinians' being dispersed under Israeli occupation as the price of Jewish suffering. The statement also noted that Israel preferred territory to security.

This means that Israel is still trying to buy security by occupying more territory of others or that it does not want security alone, but wants security and the territory of the others together. After all this, there is no further dispute or difference in points of view. There is no possibility of a separate solution because this has been totally rejected--before, during and after the initiative.

Question: But is it just a coincidence that Arab and Egyptian newspapers are talking about a separate solution? The Arab press is all the time saying things to this effect and inferring that a separate solution is imminent and that Egypt can only have what it rejected before. Some Egyptian press reports indicate that the United States will try to convince Egypt of this, that Israel will continue to be intransigent and that Egypt must take another step toward Israel. In other words, having crossed the distance between Egypt and Jerusalem in 40 minutes, transcending 30 years of bitterness and fighting, you are now, 200 days after the initiative, requested to take a further step toward Israel and to sit down to settle the problem separately and thus everything will be over and all the aspirations of the Arab and Egyptian masses will have been fulfilled, and so on. What is your opinion?

Answer: What is being reiterated by the Israeli and Arab press about a separate settlement is understandable and is nothing more than attempts to maneuver and sound out.

It is perhaps also an attempt to provoke or to intensify Arab differences at a time when efforts are being exerted in good faith to bring the Arabs together again. What is happening here in Egypt, however, is something else. In 1971, 1972 and 1973 the same theme was harped on by the same people for the same reasons. In those years, the same attempts were continuously and unsuccessfully made to cast doubt on everything in the hope that the regime might fall or that someone might swoop down on it. They cast doubt on everything--on Egypt's ability to do anything, be it its ability to fight or to regain its prestige and honor. They sought to make the people doubt their own army and to make the army doubt its command and to make the Arab nation doubt Egypt. Thus, they all cooperated to defeat Egypt before the battle, in other words, to defeat it psychologically before defeating it militarily. They wanted Egypt to stay down on the floor and never to rise. Did it not fall in 1967? Did not Israel score a devastating victory in 1967? They are trying to say what Israel was saying in those days, that Israel was destined to defeat Egypt, that this is the nature of things and this is the natural conclusion: a triumphant Israel and a vanquished Egypt and vanquished Arabs. This is not a new theme. We all know it. We have all heard it, gotten bored with it and condemned it.

The May Revolution came. The centers of power were brought down, the [Soviet] experts were expelled, the October victories were scored and the state of institutions was created. All these achievements confirmed that the suspicions of that tendentious and lackey minority were only black smoke which polluted the Egyptian atmosphere and which caused people to feel sorry for themselves and the future of their country. The people, however, have awakened and they know their enemies and their faithful sons.

The same theme has reappeared for the same purpose. The campaigns have concentrated mainly on the government and have intentionally ignored all the achievements we made together. But then these people do not care about these achievements because their aim is to defame Egypt at home and abroad. These leftist, and also rightist, writers have agreed to undermine Egypt in the eyes of the Egyptian people and the world to weaken our peace initiative.

When I addressed our people from the People's Assembly at the end of 1972, I cautioned them against the protagonists of division, the trumpets of defeatism and the agents. While I was sounding that warning, I was also making preparations for the battle. I could not then speak openly about the hard work and the scientific planning for the October war. That was not the kind of thing that one talks about and not the kind of thing for editorials or chit chatting. I infuriated a number of leaders because I did not disclose all the details. One does not do that sort of thing when it concerns war and preparations for war. I endured more than was humanly possible. I knew that the advocates of defeat were foreign bodies in Egypt's pure blood.

Now everything is back to what it was before. Why? For the same reason. What really shames this left is that it is not Egyptian. What we want is an Egyptian left, but what we see is a lackey, Marxist, Leninist, Soviet left. It is indeed strange and regrettable that this left is joined by the right, and also by the old party hacks. They all imagine that the confusion and the noises that they make in Cairo will reach all Egypt. Cairo is not Egypt and this anxiety and false alarm in Cairo is not nationwide.

The broad base of the masses is sound, well, more at peace, with a clearer mind, more fortitude, and steadier hand. They are here in their factories, on their new land in their new valley and in Upper Egypt, engaged in production. Cairo is in one world and all Egypt is in quite another. This is why this rabble-rousing minority is only in Cairo.

From the very beginning we accepted that something like this would happen because it is part of democracy. We have chosen democracy, freedom and responsible expression. So, what we are seeing is not really strange, although it is denounced by the broad base of the masses, which will always condemn these party practices which have restored all the old methods which the people had forgotten. Our people now have a definite opportunity to see what it was like before the 1952 revolution, which was very merciful with these old politicians. Had it been the red revolution that was expected instead of the July 1952 Revolution, they would all be dead with nobody blessing their souls.

It is true that the information media, continuous repetition, get the recipient of the information used to the same theme until he likes it and seeks nothing else. But there are facts which cannot be obliterated whatever attempts are made to undermine them and cast doubt on them. The question of the separate solution is an example. Our position is clear and has been made public, but they exploit the freedom of the press, which is guaranteed for all, to cast doubt on the principles, but end up undermining themselves and casting doubt on themselves and are rejected by our masses.

Although the old party hacks are also trying to catch up with the bandwagon of doubt and defeatism, they are tied to the past. They want to take us back to what we were prior to the revolution. This is impossible because history--which they should learn from the leftists--moves forward. This history has its laws and these laws are imperative. However, the old party hacks agree with the agent left and also with the right in pouncing on the regime and slighting the government. This is coupled with the concern of the old party hacks to bring about a setback, to renege and to look backward.

Therefore, whenever they spoke of the government it was common for them to use the word "authority." There is a big difference between authority and the government. This is so because authority derives from domination. In other words, authority is force imposed on the people. This was common in the days of the king. In those days, the king was the authority dominating men created by God or, in other words, the people. Now there is only the authority of the people over the people, and the government is the constitutional name of this popular authority. And the people's authority is "the term of office" [al-wilayah], and obedience to the people's authority is loyalty to the people.

I am well aware that there is economic suffering. And I know precisely and in detail about all the people's problems--from the loaf of bread, to transport and to housing. I know the people's needs. I also know about the hopes of the youth. I am aware that they wield enormous potential with which they want to contribute to the building of Egypt or, in other words, to the building of Egypt's future. I know this, because I was a poor youth. I tried, I knew fatigue and I suffered. Also, I am a father and I know what goes on in the minds of the youth. I also listen, receive letters and hold discussions with specialists. I know human nature. However, the leftists, the rightists and the old party hacks are trying to exploit the people's troubles and the energy of the youth and to push them onto deviationist paths.

They tried to do these things and failed during the marches and strikes. They also resorted to violence on 18 and 19 January. All these are hateful images and a disgraceful exploitation of the noble feelings and the cherished dreams of our people's sons.

We also have many worries. We are now in a bottleneck. All we have to do is to bear up for some time until our crisis eases or until it almost eases 2 years from now, God willing. Our patient people are confident in their belief that their troubles were not born yesterday or the day before yesterday. Their troubles are older than this. These troubles are the remnants of many years, exactly like debts which have accumulated and which must now be settled.

It is a painful thing for us to settle these debts. However, we are no longer able to avoid settling these debts because we have incurred them and because these are long-term debts which have matured. All these things are known to the sound popular base, which feels itself and its sincere leadership to be justified. The popular base has put this leadership to the test and has triumphed through it and with it. God willing, the popular base will triumph at other times.

Question: Some people are frightened by the severe implications of the issues raised by the left and the right. Although these people view these implications as confirmation of the freedom of expression in Egypt, they doubt the government's position and whether it will allow these implications to continue. That is to say, the newspapers of the left and the right want to say everything quickly with the maximum impact, as if these papers do not believe that they will continue to appear. Therefore, they spread rumors that they have been confiscated or that they will be confiscated.

Answer: Something surprising has happened because we have not confiscated a single newspaper. However, this rumor was spread by the leftist paper. Even before this rumor was heard by the residents of Cairo or even by the foreign correspondents and the news agencies, Moscow radio had been announcing this confiscation. This shows a very direct and immediate relationship between the ideas of certain agents and the Radio Moscow broadcasts. Radio Moscow does not broadcast voices, but it intercepts ideas and broadcasts them. Is this not surprising?

Nevertheless, and as I have said, there will be no going back on democracy or on freedom, including freedom of the press, in Egypt. It is inevitable that the experiment will have advantages and disadvantages and positive and negative points. All these things are self-evident. However, at the opportune time I will place everything very clearly before the people, as we are accustomed to.

However, what is even more surprising is that our national newspapers appear to be in a state of fear. Do they fear for their freedom? Do these newspapers fear that if they support the government and commend its achievements, they will be accused of having been forced to say improper things? Are destruction and the casting of doubts the only appropriate things? Is freedom of the press freedom to criticize and slander people? Is a writer free only when he is writing violent criticism? Would a writer not be free if he were to witness a great achievement, note it and praise the splendid deeds which have been achieved by compatriots like himself? Would we be maintaining freedom if we were to say no to what is good and yes to what is evil? If we are all self-destructive, then who will build and protect Egypt? What then would be the meaning of all of our achievements, achievements such as liberating our will, our decisionmaking and our land and working with our own hands and making use of our resources?

How will we help ourselves to escape from our economic and political hardships? We should free ourselves from unjustified fear. We are free in taking action, in speaking out, in writing, in cultivating our land and in using our weapons. All of the people are aware of this. It is indeed surprising that some writers are still completely unaware of this. How could one who finds freedom first advocate it and then fail to sense it and thus look as if he were handcuffed? This is another tribulation for us to see some pens tied to the past and to see that whenever these pens try to get away from the past, they are strongly pulled back.

We are living in security and the constitution has guaranteed this security for us. But it seems that we have grown so accustomed to security that we take it for granted. Therefore, it has become imperative for us to remind the people of our past condition so that they will appreciate their present condition. The rank and file of the people are not to be blamed if we have to repeatedly tell them about Egypt's past and present conditions. But what is the excuse of those whose profession is talking and whose food and drink are their free, honorable words?

Question: A member of the U.S. War College asked you if you were satisifed and another asked you if you were still optimistic and if your people were optimistic. Why do they ask you how optimistic you are when they have read your answer to this question in hundreds of television and press interviews?

Answer: I am satisfied and I thank God for this. I have achieved very much of what I wanted for my country and myself. I started my political work when I was young. Destiny willed that I should occupy my present position and carry the trust. I feel deep in my heart that I have satisfied my God and my homeland.

Formerly, whenever I achieved a great accomplishment I would tell myself: This is enough. However, political events, as well as my increasing sense of responsibility and inability to sit as a spectator watching the events taking place in and around my country and in the world, continually prompt me to carry out more difficult tasks. It is true that it is God who always grants success. These accomplishments take a tremendous psychological and material toll, but when they are achieved I feel very happy.

I have experienced years of torture and humiliation and have also experienced hours of bliss. Those who ask about my optimism must be considering the difficult situations I face. It is not unusual for a person facing such situations to be shaken and to lose confidence in himself and his people. This is natural because weariness and despair are part of human nature. I do not say that I differ from other people. I have experienced all these ordeals but I am optimistic by nature, and I firmly believe that what is right will prevail in the end and that a pessimist is bound to lose more than an optimist.

Despite what the people think of the peace initiative and its slow motion in all directions, I say that we have not yet reached the point of despair or the point where we should declare that we have done our best and that we have no choice but to admit that despite the will of the entire world, Israel has not changed and will not change. I am still optimistic.

The world saw my people on the day of my return from Jerusalem. Five million people came to Cairo. The entire world saw that our people were fully alert and most confident the day I spoke to them at 'Abidin Square. Therefore, why shouldn't I be optimistic?

Question: You are an old journalist. You have written before and you still write. You know that the press must provide excitement in the news and other items, whet the appetite of the reader and open his eyes so he will read and follow the news and so the papers will debate and analyze the news. If they do not do so, the reader will stop reading. He will read neither light, funny nor serious subjects. The national papers should not fear for their freedom if they criticize the pattern of daily life. These are the rules of the game. If the national papers were to become serious and strict, wouldn't this make people turn away from them to something which is more lighthearted and less factual?

Answer: I know this well and I also know that the duty of the press is to search for problems. But it must cooperate with the state and the people to solve the problems by making light of them or seeking remedies for them. My problem with the national press is that it goes beyond criticism to defamation, by saying that such things as there are potholes in Cairo's streets. It is true there are potholes. This is regrettable and we hope to resolve it quickly. What is more regrettable, though, is that it is alleged that there are potholes because the money to fill them has been spent to buy cars for the state's senior officials. What this means is that the state knows that there are potholes and that the people are complaining, but that the state does not care about the people's complaints and only cares about buying cars for its senior officials, even though the cars might be destroyed by the potholes. Such allegations are made despite the fact that filling the potholes would save the state the cost of purchasing spare parts which wear out because of these potholes.

We say that repairing the telephones will ease the traffic because people who cannot discharge their affairs over the telephone find themselves compelled to use cars and buses to meet their needs. All these problems and solutions are interlinked, but in reporting problems the press should not point out the defects in the streets to fabricate more serious defects. Instead of pointing out the problems and suggesting solutions, the press stresses that there are no solutions and there is no hope as long as the state does not resolve the problem of potholes so that its senior officials may ride comfortably in new cars. I do not like this kind of criticism as a general method of dealing with national issues.

Question: How can you be preoccupied with major issues such as peace, the green revolution, the upper Nile, the Red Sea, plots in the Horn of Africa, the balance of power and the pressures on you and on Israel and find time to read about potholes in the streets?

Answer: I cannot claim that I can do this every day. Some days I read many Arab and foreign newspapers. Other days I am so involved in meetings and conferences that I cannot spare any time for reading. You will be very surprised to know that I did not follow the controversy about the "pyramids hill" [related to land speculation in the pyramid area]. I learned about the controversy later, when People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i informed me that this issue was raised in the committees. I was very surprised because the question of the "pyramids hill" had been studied, submitted to the assembly and discussed, and a decision was adopted by the assembly. Therefore, the matter was closed.

The mistake is that the matter was again taken back to the People's Assembly for discussion. It was a university professor who drew my attention to this. He sent me a letter and asked to meet me. I sent the letter to Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and told him that this letter, the issue in question and the whole matter were within the jurisdiction of the executive branch. I believe in the state institutions. They are not merely a front; they are a reality. We are all certain about this.

When I learned about the "pyramids hill," I made some inquiries and I asked about the things that we were puzzling the people. I say that if any person doubts the honesty of anyone or has information about any official's receiving money or misusing his influence, it is the duty of that person to pass his information to me immediately and I will investigate it.

Because I had not followed this matter, I did not notice that it had already been submitted to the People's Assembly and that a decision had already been adopted. Since a decision was adopted, the issue should not have been reopened. What happened was an error by the system, and this error should not have occurred. There is no reason for anyone to fear anything. All guarantees are available for all the people, and the People's Assembly is entitled to pass any resolution with impunity. There is no fear of dissolution of the People's Assembly by the head of state. In the past the king could dissolve the assembly at any time. Even under the 1923 constitution, an inquiry could only be opened with the approval of at least 20 members. Now any member can open an inquiry or raise a question. It was I who drafted the bylaws of the People's Assembly. In the introduction to the bylaws you will see this phrase: "The 1966 People's Assembly bylaws are submitted by Assembly Speaker Anwar as-Sadat."

However, it is a big mistake for the People's Assembly to reopen an issue on which it had already passed a resolution. This mistake should not be repeated in the future.

I am preoccupied with bigger and more serious issues. This particular topic is nevertheless of special importance because it is related to the attempts to cast doubt on the liberalization, the open-door policy and the investment of foreign and Arab capital in Egypt. This is only one link in the chain of attempts to create a general unpleasant anti-Egypt atmosphere and say that in this atmosphere the people are not breathing freely but are suffocating. They want the good and patient Egyptian people to have the freedom to choose between breathing poisoned air and just bad air.

We have great responsibilities and we should work together with complete confidence and absolute faith. We will be triumphant. God has granted us victory over our enemy, and God will grant us victory over ourselves.

Question: There is bafflement, confusion and rabble rousing. People feel that nobody is even aware of them. To put all this in one brief and very difficult question: Where do we go from here?

Answer: I intend, God willing, to put everything to the people with complete honesty, sincerity and clarity so that the people will know where they stand and where they are going.

KAMIL, ATHERTON CONTINUE TALKS IN CAIRO

NC241906Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 April--The third round of talks between Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton opened here this evening. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, director of the foreign minister's office Ahmad Mahir and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts took part in the talks.

Kamil, Atherton Statements

NC242038Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said after his meeting with Alfred Atherton this evening that he gave Atherton a message from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat for U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He added that the United States is participating actively in enhancing the peace efforts and that Atherton's visit is a demonstration of this participation.

He continued: We exchanged views on this matter. We explained Egypt's position. We are proceeding with the peace efforts. The obstacle is the Israeli position, reflected in their completely unacceptable interpretation of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and in their policy on the settlements. If the Israelis change this position then there will be room for progress in the peace efforts.

Asked about his departure for Washington, the foreign minister said that such a trip is possible in principle but no date has been set. This will be decided in the event of a change in the Israeli position. The foreign minister reaffirmed Egypt's position on the question of settlements. He said that the international stance on this matter is quite clear.

Alfred Atherton stated after the meeting that he had a useful meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday. He added that the talks were extremely serious and thorough and will help the U.S. Government come to a better, deeper understanding of Egypt's position. He said that the United States is trying to find ways to generate new movement toward peace. He added: We are confident that we will achieve this.

He also said that the United States has not received any new Israeli proposals recently, that there were discussions, that ideas were discussed with Israel and that it is premature to talk about Israeli proposals now. Mr Atherton added that he will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to hear the Israeli viewpoint. He said that the proposal to send the Egyptian foreign minister to Washington is an important one, but no date has been set for his departure. Mr Atherton will leave Cairo tomorrow for Washington.

Atherton Leaves for Washington

NC250805Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 April--The U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, left Cairo for Washington this morning, taking with him a special message from President Anwar as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Atherton arrived in Cairo last Friday on a 4-day visit to discuss ways to give impetus to the peace efforts in the area.

AL-AHRAM Commentary on Talks

NC251019Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's Cairo papers report the talks Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, held with President Anwar as-Sadat and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil--talks were aimed at reviving the peace process in the area. The papers report that Atherton has a letter for President Jimmy Carter from President Anwar as-Sadat. They add that President as-Sadat has affirmed to Atherton Egypt's firm stand on reaching a comprehensive solution on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

Meanwhile, AL-AHRAM reports the statement made by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil at the end of his talks with Alfred Atherton, who will be leaving Cairo for Washington today. Kamil has said that so far Egypt has not received anything affirming that any change has taken place on the Israeli stand on UN Security Council Resolution 242, that the Israeli interpretation of the resolution is completely unacceptable and that Egypt does not accept the Israeli policy on the settlements. The foreign minister has indicated that his trip to Washington has been agreed on in principle and that his departure would be possible in the event of a development in the Israeli stand or if a resumption of contacts would be useful.

Writing on this subject under the headline "The New Israeli Formula," AL-AHRAM says: Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, is expected to return to Washington today. He will brief the U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, on the latest developments of the Egyptian position now that he has had a long meeting with President as-Sadat aimed at searching for new means and ideas for reviving the peace process.

With Atherton's return to Washington, the dimensions of the picture will become completely clear to the U.S. administration: Egypt has positively affirmed its stand on the bases and principles of a peaceful solution, which can be achieved only when the principle of a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories and the recognition of Palestinian people's rights is achieved.

AL-AHRAM adds: Up to this very minute, the Israeli Government has not come up with anything new that could be considered an initiative for proceeding toward a just and comprehensive solution. Israel is still playing with formulas and coming out with interpretations of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The least that can be said about them is that they contradict the text and spirit of the resolution and the entire international consensus. Israel says that it will negotiate with all the Arab states. This indicates that it insists on not negotiating with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the so-called change in the Israeli position on UN Security Council Resolution 242 absolutely does not indicate that Israel is committed to a withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in return for recognition of Israeli political independence and territorial integrity.

AL-AHRAM adds: All this means that Begin's and Dayan's next tours in the United States are aimed at making U.S. public opinion believe that there is something new in the Israeli position, whereas the facts indicate that Israel persists in disregarding the objective and necessary bases for solving the area's crisis.

AL-AHRAM says: At this moment, Egypt reaffirms its stand: It will continue to keep the opportunity open for the peace efforts and will maintain its firm line until a just settlement is reached. In the meantime, Israel is exposing the entire area to the perils of an explosion, and it will be in the forefront of those who will suffer from this explosion.

CAIRO RADIO DISCUSSES U.S. DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB

NC241023Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

["Listeners Letters" program]

[Text] The second question in today's series appeared in letters from listeners Samir Musa 'Abdrabruh from Bani Suwayf, Husan Muhammad Ahmad Mutawi' from Cairo and Ahmad Muhammad Fario Fuda from Ismailia. The question is: News agencies have said that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has decided to postpone the production of the neutron bomb until agreement has been reached at SALT between the United States and the Soviet Union. Please throw some light on this bomb.

Expert Dr Sami Fathallah answers the question: It is difficult to answer this question because President Jimmy Carter's decision means that the neutron bomb exists, or at least is ready for production as soon as orders for its production are issued. The neutron bomb is the most up-to-date product of modern nuclear science in the sphere of the production of the so-called clean atomic bomb.

The neutron bomb's strong radiation causes sudden death to individuals but does not harm installations or buildings. It is clean with relation to inanimate objects but not to human beings.

However, if we examined the first old atomic bomb--of the type dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki--we would discover that it is one of the strongest weapons of total annihilation as far as human beings, animals, plants, buildings, installations and everything in the area hit by that unclean atomic bomb are concerned. When the atomic bomb was developed into the hydrogen bomb, its destructive potential increased with regard to all living creatures, buildings, installations and other things. The new bomb, which has been described as the clean bomb, is capable of causing certain annihilation to man, God's most superior creature. The neutron bomb is absolutely not clean nor is it exactly humanitarian. How can it be clean when it is aimed against man and how can it be clean when living creatures are its only target?

The production of this bomb was primarily planned to match the Warsaw Pact superiority in tank production. The United States had to look for a new weapon and it came up with the neutron bomb. However, according to press reports, President Jimmy Carter halted the production of the neutron bomb until agreement is reached at the current SALT talks. The production of the neutron bomb is considered a political weapon against the Warsaw Pact--a weapon on paper until negotiations on the limitation of strategic arms are completed.

We hope that the production of all the mass annihilation weapons in the world will be stopped--not only the old bombs but also those that are called clean bombs, because they are very far from being clean.

CAIRO PAPER DENIES IMMINENT CABINET RESHUFFLE

NC231320Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 April--Today's issue of the Cairo newspaper AT-TA'WUN AS-SIYASI [POLITICAL COOPERATION] affirms that the government of Mamduh Salim will remain in office and that all reports of a possible cabinet reshuffle are baseless. The paper adds that the government will remain in office on the basis of the parliamentary majority which it enjoys and of the confidence of President Anwar as-Sadat, which it had not lost.

The paper further says that important steps will be taken in the next few days to implement the policies and plans which the government has committee itself to in various fields. It adds that all informed sources have denied all the reports which were published in the papers of the various parties last week about a cabinet reshuffle.

AL-AHALI CITES FAILURES OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

LD211718Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] It has become difficult for Mamduh Salim's government to continue in office. The problems are bigger than the government--a fact which its members are aware of, but they differ on finding a way out.

It might be logical to carry out a cabinet change or reshuffle, but will this help to solve Egypt's problems?

Unfortunately the answer is no, for the problem is not that of a minister or a cabinet; it is a problem of a policy and program. Therefore, discussion must focus on this policy and program.

Many disagree over the government's present policy. Perhaps the disagreement first began between the government and the left, but later it expanded to include all the nationalist and honorable forces in the community. It no longer involves only the left or those involved in politics.

In the question of the AL-AHRAM plateau [proposed for tourist development] and other similar issues, many of the nationalist elements of various inclinations but of no political color opposed the project. Their argument was clear: preservation and respect for historic sites.

In the question of foreign banks, many economists have been against them. In its recent report the Central Bank called for ending the flow of these banks which harms the Egyptian economy.

In the question of films, those in the film industry and the intellegentsia have been against introducing foreign capital in the field of television and in the media. Those who opposed it have no political identity. Prior to that there was the question of renewing Cairo residential quarters and selling old buildings at auction.

There is also the problem of prices and the economic policy that created it, as well as the issue of the laws that have been rejected, such as the law of the constitutional court or the press law.

All these problems have been reflected in the People's Assembly and outside it as well as among the circles of workers, the intellegentsia and the trade unions. Only a few have defended the government's insistence on bulldozing through its policy.

Therefore, it is not a question of individuals. The problem is that of a policy against which the largest opposition front in modern Egyptian history has been formed. This has happened because of a simple and logical reason--our esteemed government has rejected socialism and does not know how to apply capitalism; it has adopted all the bad aspects of the capitalist system and forgotten all its good ones.

It has also forgotten the magnitude of the opposition which is building up daily and becoming a new phenomenon in Egyptian society.

AL-JAMASI RECEIVES UN EMERGENCY FORCES COORDINATOR

NC221847Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 April--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi today received the UN emergency forces general coordinator, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo. The meeting lasted 1 hour.

KUWAITI PAPER CARRIES STATEMENT BY GHALI

NC211120Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 21 April--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has expressed optimism over the possibility of overcoming current inter-Arab differences. He said the danger represented by the aggression which took place against southern Lebanon has placed the Arabs in a better position to overcome their internal quarrel. In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Ghali noted that despite the severance of diplomatic relations between Egypt and certain Arab countries, economic and humanitarian contacts have not stopped

Concerning Egyptian-Soviet relations, Dr Ghali said we have not dismissed the Soviet role in the area but Moscow must stop its propaganda campaign against Egypt.

Discussing the Geneva conference and Egypt's readiness to attend a pre-Geneva meeting in New York, Dr Ghali said the Egyptian-Romanian joint statement refers to the possibility of adopting this method in negotiations. He affirmed that Egypt's basic aim is to find a comprehensive and permanent solution in the Middle East. He said that Egypt still insists that the declaration of principles should stipulate in its introduction the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

GHALI MEETS WITH ZIMBABWE LIBERATION LEADER

NC241913Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 April--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front for the liberation of Zimbabwe. They discussed the current developments in Rhodesia and the front's role in the conflict taking place there. Dr Ghali told Nkomo, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, that Egypt fully supports the attitude of the African confrontation states toward the British-American initiative for settling the dispute in Rhodesia. Dr Ghali also emphasized the importance of the role played by the Patriotic Front in any settlement of the problem and in bringing about African majority rule in Rhodesia. In a statement following the meeting, Nkomo said that in his meetings with Egyptian officials he found clear understanding of the Patriotic Front's attitude on the current conflict in Rhodesia. Nkomo also praised Egypt's support for the Patriotic Front.

FURTHER REPORT ON HUSAYN'S SPEECH TO CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN241631Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that permanent legitimate national institutions are the guarantee of the ongoing march which mobilizes all talents and potentials and secures progress, steadfastness and the preservation of potentials, not their dissipation.

In a comprehensive pan-Arab speech he delivered to the opening session of the National Consultative Council today, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that this council represents the reality of our people--their ideas, perspectives and customs. His majesty said: Since I assumed responsibility, in difficult and critical conditions, I have been careful to protect the democratic values on which this country is founded and to preserve the democratic spirit on which it is based.

In his speech, King Husayn defined the meanings and the objectives which constitute the pillars of the Jordanian entity and presence. He stressed that Jordan is a basic part of the Arab nation and that since its inception as a modern state it has assumed a comprehensive pan-Arab mission. He also stressed that Jordan does not shirk its Arab duty, nor does it give itself a role apart from this duty and commitment.

His majesty the king said: We in Jordan seek Arab solidarity as the simplest form of our inevitable unity. Our belief in our duty on the issue of Palestine is part of our belief in the unity of the Arab destiny. The king further said: We have to achieve true economic development, experience a comprehensive social renaissance and thus reach a genuine civilized and humane maturity. Jordan believes in the spiritual heritage of our nation. Our Arab civilization will be meaningless if we divest from it the tremendous spiritual energy of our faith. Thus, God has saved us from falling into cruelty, treachery and violence in our political and public life. He has also protected us from the class struggle and the prejudices which come clad as ideologies, creeds, hatred and underhanded dealings in our Arab relations and our contacts with the world.

His Majesty King Husayn added: If a general Arab weakness, disintegration of the nation and the absence of enlightened planning has ever led to a setback or even setbacks, Jordan's adherence to Palestinian rights and Arab security has always remained alive and continuous. His majesty then called on the Arab leaders to unite, unify their stands and uphold reason, planning and moral courage as the means to liberate the occupied territories. He also called for the preparation of an integrated and comprehensive strategy to place our huge resources in the service of our pan-Arab objectives and thus bypass transient differences and narrow-minded disputes.

His Majesty King Husayn asserted that the Jordanian Arab Army is the Arab nation's army and the shield of the entire homeland. It is also a symbol of honor and steadfastness as well as the backbone of our country. The army represents our country's strength, security, stability and ability to perform its pan-Arab duty. His majesty went on to say: Our whole nation should show its appreciation, love and care for our army. For our army is the protecting fence which surrounds us; it is the shield which guards the Arab nation from blows. Our people do not ask much if they expect the capable Arabs to stand by their side and support them with their bountiful resources, because our people are always in the vanguard as well as one with them.

At the conclusion of his pan-Arab speech, His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that enlightened responsible constitutional democracy is part of our entity, our political system and our social reality. He also affirmed that at this stage the National Consultative Council is the best practical formula for achieving consultation, fruitful dialog and faithful cooperation among the state institutions for the purpose of progress and strength.

Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the National Consultative Council, also delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in which he welcomed His Majesty King Husayn and said: Your Majesty is the protector of the constitution, democracy and legitimacy. You have enriched Jordanian life for 26 years through the edifices of civilization, the construction of the heroic Jordanian Army, civilized centers, development, calls for unity, solidarity and mobilization of potentials.

The opening ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; and the ministers.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ELECTS DEPUTY SPEAKERS

JN241242Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] has elected Ahmad at-Tarawinah as NCC first deputy speaker, and Kamal ad-Dajani as NCC second deputy speaker. The NCC also elected the members of the Financial, Administrative, Legal and Foreign Affairs committees. At the end of its session, the NCC decided to hold another meeting tomorrow morning to draft a reply to the king's speech.

SAUDI PAPER INTERVIEWS CROWN PRINCE HASAN

JN230844Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 23 April--Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan has warned against the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East area. He said the enemy Israeli Government bears the responsibility for keeping the area on the edge of a volcano because of its obstinate stand. He said the world is in dire need of stability to change the economic and political relationships between various world states.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published today, Crown Prince Hasan said that the comprehensive solution of the problem cannot be achieved unless Israel fully withdraws from the occupied Arab areas and unless the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination is granted.

The Jordanian crown prince called on the United States to play a more effective role in giving momentum to peace in the area, since it is a superpower. He also called on the major powers to shoulder their responsibilities and exercise the required pressure on Israel to achieve the first step toward peace; namely, full withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas.

LEBANON'S IMAM AS-SADR ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN240653Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] His Eminence Imam Musa as-Sadr, a prominent Lebanese political figure, arrived in Amman yesterday evening. His eminence is due to meet with Jordanian high-ranking officials today.

TEXT OF 23 APRIL PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT REPORTED

NC241138Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0838 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 24 April--Lebanese parliamentary sources stated today that the agreement concluded at the meeting of the miniparliamentary committee yesterday is "ambiguous and liable to various interpretations," as these sources put it, particularly with regard to the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon.

Quoting a committee member, these sources say that the discussions did not deal with the Palestinian armed presence, but with the Palestinian armed action--and the difference between the two presences is extremely clear.

The Beirut QNA correspondent says that, at any rate, these doubts have not lessened the wave of optimism spread by the announcement of the agreement yesterday afternoon, despite the fact that up to now the agreement has not been officially announced. The speaker of the Chamber of Deputies is expected to hand the text of the agreement--which includes outlines--to the Lebanese prime minister, following the formation of the new government.

Sources of the Chamber of Deputies believe that the policy statement of the new cabinet will depend basically on the outlines included in the agreement. Then, the debate on and the approval of the cabinet policy statement will merely be a debate on, and also an approval of, the agreement and the [word indistinct] to submit the agreement to a debate in itself might cause a great deal of sensitivity.

The agreement includes the halting of the armed action in Lebanese territory, Palestinian or otherwise, the need to implement Security Council Resolution No 425 to the letter, the confirming of Lebanon's international border and the emphasizing of state sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

The agreement also includes the building of a sound national army capable of imposing the state's sovereignty over the whole of its territory as well as the need to enforce Lebanese laws on all residents of the country. Furthermore, the agreement includes economic and social aspects and stresses the need to adopt a sound development policy in these fields.

The Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR today quotes three members of the parliamentary committee, which comprises the 13 members who signed the agreement yesterday, as saying that any interpretation of the agreement cannot lead to the annulment of the Cairo Agreement between the Lebanese authority and the Palestinian resistance or conflict with the resolutions passed by the Cairo and Riyadh summit conferences.

The following is the text of the agreement, which was signed by the members of the Lebanese parliamentary committee yesterday:

Out of firm belief in the need to preserve Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and security and the safety of its territory and its democratic parliamentary system; in keeping with the stances to which Lebanon has adhered in supporting the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian people's cause and their right to recover their land and exercise all their national and political rights on this land; on the basis of the resolutions passed by the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferences, on the collection of weapons, and since all Lebanese in all walks of life have agreed to preserve Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty and the safety of its territory; since the preservation of these self-evident things dictates that only constitutional authority should exist in Lebanon;

since the representatives of the Palestinian people announced in the statement issued by the six-nation summit conference held in Riyadh and in the resolution passed by the extraordinary session of the Arab summit conference held in Cairo their approval of the supervision of all the heavy arms and the elimination of armed manifestations; and since Security Council Resolution No 425--to the provisions of which all sides have committed themselves--calls for the stationing of UN forces in the area of southern Lebanon to insure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, consolidate international peace and security, and assist the Lebanese Government to secure the restoration of its authority in the area; and since Resolution No 425--which all the sides have accepted--dictates the consolidation of international peace and security in addition to its stipulation that it is imperative that Lebanese authority be restored in the area of southern Lebanon; and since the primary task of the Arab security forces is to back the Lebanese authorities in order to impose security and guarantee the security of all the residents in Lebanese territory, we therefore announce the following:

1. UN Security Council Resolution No 425 must be implemented. This calls for:

A. Scrupulous respect for the safety of Lebanon's territory and its sovereignty and political independence within Lebanon's internationally recognized border.

B. Immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Lebanese territory.

C. Restoration of the state's effective authority in the area of southern Lebanon.

2. All Palestinian and other armed action throughout Lebanese territory must be halted.

3. Any armed presence except that of the forces of the Lebanese legitimate authority must be prevented and Lebanese laws and norms must be applied to all the Lebanese and to all those present in Lebanese territory without exception.

4. The Lebanese Army must be built on a sound and correct national basis to enable this army to assume its responsibilities and to discharge the tasks assigned to it.

5. An economic development policy within the framework of the free economic system in its modern concept must be pursued. This policy will be based on exploiting all the country's natural resources, which will lead to providing all citizens with equal opportunities and will lead to the achievement of a sound social justice in all Lebanese areas and among all factions of the people.

6. As they express this popular will, the conferees ask the legitimate authority to implement it.

Signatories: Kamil al-As'ad, Camille Sham'un, Sa'ib Salam, Pierre al-Jumayyil, [name indistinct--presumably 'Adil 'Usyran], Kazim al-Khalil, Hasan ar-Rifa'i, Bahij Taqiy ad-Din, Michel Ma'luli, Nasir al-Ma'luf, Edmond Rizq, Khatching Babikyan, Auguste Bachus.

Condemned by Nationalists

JN250957Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--The political and central council of the Lebanese National and Progressive parties and forces has vehemently criticized the agreement concluded by the 13-member parliamentary committee 2 days ago on the situation in Lebanon.

The council added that the statement that was issued by the committee includes ideas and stands remote from the concept of the real national reconciliation which should be centered on Lebanon's unity, Arabism, democratic development and activity regarding the Zionist peril.

A statement issued by the council last night asserted that the statement of the 13-member parliamentary committee does not embody common Lebanese ideas. The committee cannot reflect the reality of the structure of the political forces in the country, the council's statement added.

The statement of the political and central council of the Lebanese National and Progressive parties and forces called for confronting the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. The statement pointed out that the patriotism of any side's political stand is measured by the priority it assigns to the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

The statement added that the Lebanese Nationalist Movement reaffirms its determination to resist the occupation and to liberate Lebanese territory. The movement declares that this resistance is a legitimate right and can neither be abrogated nor halted by any side, parliamentary or otherwise. The statement stressed that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon derives its legitimacy from the official agreements concluded by the Lebanese Government and the PLO. Neither of the two sides can abrogate these agreements.

The political and central council called upon all the nationalist parties to unify their ranks and to resist the Zionist occupation since this is the principal task of all citizens at this fateful turning point through which Lebanon is passing. On the other hand, the Progressive Socialist Party has stated that the statement of the parliamentary committee is dominated by a one-sided viewpoint that has stripped it of its effectiveness and capability regarding sound national representation.

The Progressive Socialist Party convened last night to discuss the structure of the miniparliamentary committee. In a statement after its meeting, the party said that the committee's plan is ambiguous and contradictory. It asserted the right of the Palestinian people to wage their just struggle against the Zionist enemy and all plots.

TYRE DEPUTY CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT OF LIBERATION

JN242032Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, Tyre deputy in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has called for the formation of a new Lebanese Government to function under the slogan of liberating occupied southern Lebanon. He said that every [words indistinct] should be confined to saving Lebanon from occupation, because all Lebanese, especially those of the south, refuse to turn UN Security Council Resolution No 425 into the state of attenuation like that which befell Resolution 242.

In a statement to the Lebanese press yesterday, Tyre Deputy 'Ali al-Khalil added that 11 years have elapsed since Resolution 242 was issued, and it has not been implemented. It has merely become a document around which discussions swirl.

Al-Khalil concluded his statement by saying: Therefore, we think that putting forth any topic other than that of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon will be useless and will complicate the crisis.

CABINET REPORTEDLY TO BE FORMED 25 APRIL

JN241833Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 April--Sources close to the republican palace said here tonight that the decision on the composition of a new cabinet to succeed that of Dr Salim al-Huss will be issued tomorrow evening, Tuesday. These sources believe it is highly likely that Dr Salim al-Huss will be entrusted again to form this cabinet.

SIILASVUO MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS

NC241325Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] At 0930 today Foreign and National Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus held a working meeting at this office at the National Defense Ministry, attended by General Siilasvuo and his aides, Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri, and Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj.

After the meeting, Minister Butrus said that General Siilasvuo, the coordinator general of UN emergency forces in the Middle East, had assured him that Israel will carry out the second stage of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon on 30 April. The area from which it will withdraw is about 580 square km. Minister Butrus added that General Siilasvuo had informed him officially of Israel's pledge to withdraw its forces from part of the Lebanese territory in the south. Minister Butrus said: He also showed me the line of the new withdrawal on the map, and informed me that Israel pledged to withdraw from the remaining area after holding new talks with Siilasvuo after the next stage of withdrawal.

Minister Butrus added: I, of course, stressed to General Siilasvuo the need for Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territory unconditionally and as soon as possible. I also discussed with him the measures which the UN forces are taking in the areas they have entered and will enter following the Israeli withdrawal, and the cooperation and coordination between them and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, and the Lebanese authority in general.

He also said: It has become apparent that there is benefit in General Siilasvuo's meeting with Interior Minister Dr Salman to discuss coordination between the UN forces and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. After the expected Israeli withdrawal on 30 April, the area the Israeli forces will have evacuated since the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution will total 756 square km. The area which will remain under occupation is estimated at 400 square km.

He added: General Siilasvuo also assured me that the withdrawal which Israel pledged to make on 30 April will be completed on the same day.

Meets Interior Minister

NC241326Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman held a meeting at noon today with General Siilasvuo, the coordinator general of UN emergency forces in the Middle East, and his aides. The meeting was attended by Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj, Military Adviser to the Minister of Interior Col Mahmud Abu Darham and legal adviser Dr Salman 'Arab.

The discussion in the meeting dealt with the deployment of the UN forces, the assistance of the Internal Security Forces to them and the revival of public administration in the areas from which Israeli forces are scheduled to withdraw on 30 April.

After the meeting, Minister Salman stated: I affirmed to General Siilasvuo and his aides during my meeting with them the government's interest in the restoration of administrative authority in southern Lebanon as soon as possible, and we shall spare no effort in achieving this goal.

SHI'ITE LEADER ON LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

JN250942Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Apr 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with the newspaper AD-DUSTUR, His Eminence Musa as-Sadr [Lebanese Shi'ite leader], has stated his optimism as to the future of Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the possibility of achieving national reconciliation in Lebanon soon, and his pessimism as to the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He further stated: Undoubtedly, the Arab nation's 30 years of experience with Israel does not give rise to optimism, despite the fact that the UN Security Council Resolution [presumably Resolution 425], is unique. It seems also that the big powers and the various Arab parties will use their influence to implement this resolution.

If we take into consideration the text of the resolution; the fact that the United States was the one to submit it and has helped transport the UNIFIL; the fact that France is participating in these emergency forces for the first time as a nuclear power, we find that this resolution differs from other resolutions. Despite all this, Israel's delaying tactics have begun to reflect negatively on the situation. For example, it was expected that President Carter would not receive any Israeli official before Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon, as President Carter did when he did not receive the Israeli premier before he accepted the cease-fire [as published], yet we have been hearing news for the past 2 days that Israel's foreign minister and its prime minister will visit the White House.

He further stated: The ordeal resides in the weakness of the Arab position and that of the Lebanese position too. There is no substitute for the strength of these positions in facing Israel, the expert in maneuvers. Speaking simply, I cannot envisage an Israeli withdrawal without Lebanese pressure first and foremost, coupled with an Arab stand capable of attracting international pressure in its turn.

Musa as-Sadr stated: I believe that at this stage in particular Palestinian leaders more than any others have the obligation to acknowledge seriously Lebanon's interests and to support these interests, to avoid giving the impression to certain parties that Lebanon's interests are in conflict with the Palestinian cause. Only then would the Palestinians find more support and more sacrifices from Lebanon, all of Lebanon.

Asked about how he views Lebanese-Palestinian relations in the light of all this, Musa as-Sadr stated: Relations between Lebanon and the Palestinian people and their revolution began in an exemplary manner, as if reflecting the two sides of a single fact. These relations inter-reacted until Lebanon became the point of departure for the revolution and its road to success. The Lebanese had never been unanimous over any issue as they were in their support for the Palestinian cause. Then came the ordeal, the mistakes, the interventions by the foe and the ignorant friend [as published] which brought these relations to ruin. As for the future, it is subject to the various positions and to the degree of wisdom and loyalty of the leaders, because the reorganization of these relations in the present atmosphere, and after the ordeal and the enemy's infiltration into the arena with his diabolical methods and means, I repeat, the reorganization of these relations will require greater effort, wisdom and sacrifices. Yet I am not pessimistic, and I call for more effort and activity in this direction.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES 1978 BUDGET

NC241327Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Summary] The Chamber of Deputies met at 1100 today under Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The prime minister, the ministers and 60 deputies attended the meeting. An urgent bill on the state budget for 1978 was submitted for approval. The Chamber of Deputies passed the bill unanimously. The budget totals 2,583,656,000 pounds.

KUWAITI PAPER DISCUSSES ARMED PRESENCE IN LEBANON

NC251044Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 25 April--Quoting sources in Beirut it termed "well informed," a Kuwaiti newspaper said today that the higher Lebanese sides are currently studying a very important report connected with the status of armed persons in Lebanese territory.

The AL-ANSA' newspaper says that the most important part of the report says that about 6,000 armed Iraqis and some 500 armed Cubans are now operating in various Palestinian resistance groups. The paper says that this subject has been raised between Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and a senior Syrian security man. The paper adds that during their meeting they discussed the effect this will have on the developments of events, particularly should the climate become opportune for rekindling sedition in Lebanon.

UNIFIED FORCES NOT TO APPEAR ARMED IN PUBLIC

NC250737Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the unified Lebanese forces, has stated that the (?command) has asked all its men to refrain from appearing with arms in public and to eliminate visible military activity from all safe areas and thus contribute to giving detente a chance to succeed. Last night Shaykh Bashir presided over a meeting of the command during which security and political developments in the wake of the parliamentary committee statement were discussed.

After the meeting Shaykh Bashir said: We studied the developments of the week. Naturally, the most prominent development was the parliamentary accord embodied in the document that was issued on Sunday, a document which augurs the return of awareness to the political conscience and constitutes a new turning point for the liberation and unification of the country. The unification of Lebanon without detente is impossible. Lebanon's liberation without detente will lead to either partition or oppression.

Asked about the [words indistinct] the Lebanese forces to abolish the militias, Shaykh Bashir said that the need for Lebanese militias ends as soon as the Lebanese Army is established and the Palestinian armed presence in all Lebanese territories is ended.

ENLISTMENT OF ARMY VOLUNTEERS TO RESUME

NC261649Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The National Defense Ministry-army command announces that it has decided to resume the enlistment of volunteers for army service through a military committee, which will visit various parts of Lebanon for this purpose beginning 8 May.

PALESTINIAN, FRENCHMAN KILLED IN CLASHES

NC250804Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Reports from the south say that fire was twice opened on French soliders--once in an exchange of fire between an Israeli patrol and some Palestinians and again during an exchange of fire between a French patrol and Palestinians. One Palestinian was killed and two others wounded; one French solider was killed when he fell on a mine while trying to take cover from the firing in an orchard, west of Tyre.

French officers have stated that the French forces have received orders to return fire immediately and without warning if they or their positions are subjected to fire. The officers said that their men were adequately armed.

Another French officer has said that it is out of the question for the UN forces to uproot lemon trees in the orchards, as Israel is doing, despite the fact that the trees happen to be around their positions and constitute excellent cover from infiltration.

In Beirut a UN spokesman confirmed the report that a French soldier has been killed by a land mine. This is the second UN soldier killed as a result of land mines in southern Lebanon since the UNIFIL began taking up their positions last month. One Swedish soldier was killed and another seriously wounded when their vehicle hit a mine near the Al-Khardali Bridge.

The spokesman also asserted that unidentified gunmen had twice opened fire on French soldiers. Battles have taken place between the fedayeen and the Israeli forces on the Al-Bazuriyah-Bi'r al-A'ma-Tayr Dibbah line, during which various types of weapon were used. The battles went on from 2100 on Sunday to 0800 yesterday.

Further Report

NC241925Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The French forces stationed in the observation post in Tyre were fired on today by armed aliens. The French forces returned the fire, forcing the armed men to flee.

At the Al-Qasimiyah Bridge, armed men opened fire on three Jeeps carrying French UNIFIL forces. The French soldiers returned the fire, and the results of the clash are still unknown.

A French soldier was killed last night by a mine explosion south of R'as al-Ayn, 7 km from Tyre.

EXPLOSION OCCURS IN BEIRUT IN EARLY MORNING

NC250739Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] An explosion occurred on the street leading to the As-Siyufi quarter at 0330 today, destroying the front part of a car and shattering the glass in a number of buildings. It has been revealed that a small explosive charge had been put in a garbage bin. It exploded, causing the aforementioned material damage.

SYRIAN FORCES ARREST NATIONALISTS IN AL-BIQA'

JN241800Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 April--Arrivals from the area of western Al-Biqa' report that in the past 2 days the Syrian deterrent forces have been launching a campaign of arrests during which they have stormed the houses of elements of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement there. Among the detainees is Husayn 'Ali Ahmad, a well-known fighter of the Nationalist Movement. The houses of Sa'd Kammuni and Ahmad Shihadah have been stormed.

These arrivals affirm that the Syrian checkpoints spread all over western Al-Biqa' are supplied with lists of the names of the Nationalist Movement fighters who have fought and are still fighting against the Zionist occupation in the Al-'Urqub area.

CLASHES BETWEEN PALESTINIANS REPORTED

NC231305Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from An-Nabatiyah, eight armed Palestinians belonging to the Abu Dawud and Abu Nidal group were killed last night in clashes with other wings of the Fatah movement. The reports also indicate that several men belonging to 'Arafat's wing were wounded while pursuing and detaining 20 members of the dissident groups. These groups are composed mainly of enlisted Iraqis.

A statement issued by Fatah says that these operations were aimed at purging anarchists from the ranks. The statement criticizes the armed Iraqis who came to create disturbances, not to help the Palestinians.

ISRAELIS REOPEN SOUTH TO RETURNING REFUGEES

NC240836Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Israeli barriers have been reopened at the Al-Qulaybah crossroad and at the points of Al-Bazuriyah, Dayr Qanut, Ra's al-'Ayn and Burj Rahhal. The southern refugees have resumed returning to their villages following a 3-day stoppage.

TISHRIN CRITICIZES CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE

JN230749Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN publishes two comments on the current call for an Arab summit conference.

In its first comment, entitled "Why a Summit Conference Now?", the paper says: Certain Arab circles are raising the question of holding an Arab summit conference as a way out of the current deterioration in Arab relations. But they should know that the primary responsibility for this falls on the As-Sadat regime, which has violated Arab summit resolutions, betrayed the cause of common Arab struggle and created a rift in Arab solidarity.

TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly the unity of Arab ranks against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and the capitulatory trends is a major weapon which the Arab nation can use in its battle to liberate the land, regain its rights and protect its national resources.

TISHRIN continues: If the purpose of holding such a conference is to bolster Arab steadfastness in the face of the capitulatory conspiracy, what has prevented, and continues to prevent, those Arab states which call for solidarity and unity of ranks from condemning and rejecting the capitulatory line and isolating its supporters and also making effective political, economic and military contributions to the Arab confrontation against the conspiracy?

TISHRIN says that if the purpose of holding such a conference is to come out with bogus solidarity and false unity of ranks, then the Arab masses cannot accept this method and will not allow this false call for unity to serve as a cover for the reluctance of some people to perform their national duty in the battle of steadfastness and confrontation and for their clandestine support of the capitulatory line.

Under the headline "The Rabat Summit Resolutions and As-Sadat's Contradictory Line," TISHRIN reviews As-Sadat's violations of the Rabat summit resolutions and asks: After all that has happened, will the current efforts to convene a new Arab summit take into consideration the political practices of the As-Sadat regime which are hostile to the objectives of Arab struggle? Or is it the intention of the summit to free As-Sadat from his isolation, which was brought about by his defeatist political line?

Concluding, TISHRIN affirms that the Rabat summit resolutions are very clear and that any attempt to sidetrack them will not serve the cause of the Arab struggle. What is needed, the paper says, is to expose As-Sadat's settlement conspiracy, which has led to the deterioration in Arab relations and paved the way for the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Otherwise, any talk about Arab solidarity would be just an attempt to save As-Sadat.

LIBYA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON GUINEAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD242237Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1932 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At the invitation of the brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, leading an important delegation, paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 17 to 23 April 1978.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure was accorded a warm official and popular welcome expressive of the feelings of fraternity and friendship that link the two sister peoples and countries, and the position which President Sekou Toure enjoys among the citizens of the Jamahiriyah.

During the visit the two leaders reviewed in the course of their many meetings the bilateral relations between the two countries, and the African, Arab and international political situation. They also conducted official talks. Taking part in those talks on the Guinean side were Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui, President of the National Assembly Damantang Camara, Minister of Social Domain Saifoulaye Diallo, Justice Minister Lansane Diane, Minister of Information and Ideology Senainon Behanzin, Minister of Planning and Economic Cooperation N'faly Sangare, Minister of Banks and Securities Mamadou Toure, Director of the Banks and Currency Department [name indistinct], Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry (Ali Bangora), Guinean Ambassador to Libya Fode Soriba Camara.

On the Libyan side: Secretary of Agriculture Muhammad 'Ali at-Tabu, Secretary of Trade Abu Bakr 'Ali ash-Sharif, Secretary of Nutrition Dr Umar Ahmad al-Maqsi, Secretary of Foreign Affairs 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Secretary of Planning Musa Abu Furaywah, Foreign Undersecretary 'Isa Ayad al-Ba'ba', Director of the African Department at the Foreign Secretariat Salim al-Shuwayhidi, Director of the Treaties Department at the Foreign Secretariat Mahmud al-Bakkush, Ambassador to Guinea Hamid Ahmad al-Hudhayiri and a number of senior technicians.

All the negotiations were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality, fraternity and frankness, and dealt with various aspects. These negotiations were characterized by an identity of views by the two sides.

In the sphere of bilateral relations, the two leaders praise the strong historic relations that link the Libyan Arab and Guinean peoples. They express full satisfaction with the development of joint solidarity and cooperation in struggle between the two states in all fields--a matter which was once more manifested in the signing of the minutes of an agreement on economic cooperation between them. This resulted from their realization that economics is one of the main supports for the continuation of their liberation struggle totally and effectively in order to realize their true independence. The two sides express their commitment to make every possible effort so that this cooperation will be an example to be followed. They reaffirm that this commitment manifests the two peoples' will to be liberated from all sorts of foreign domination and imperialist control. They reaffirm that the commitment of the two countries stems from the concept of African cooperation and originality.

In the African sphere, the two sides condemn the imperialist attempts that aim at establishing alliances and dominant groupings among the countries of the continent. They denounce alliances leading to the division of the countries of the continent and call on the African states not to enter into such alliances. They call on the African countries to resist such groupings in accordance with the principles of nonalinement.

The two sides reaffirm their total commitment to the principle of self-determination for all peoples, and their total support for the struggle of the African liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and southern Africa against foreign occupation and racism. The two sides reaffirm at the same time their desire to participate in finding a just solution for the conflicts in the African Continent, particularly in the Arabian Sahara region and Eritrea.

In this connection the Guinean side expresses its approval of the efforts made by Libya to make successful the meetings of reconciliation among brothers in Chad--meetings crowned with the convening of the Sabha conference on 24 February 1978--and the meetings of all parties on 27 March 1978 in Sabha and Benghazi for the realization of reconciliation in the Sudan.

The two sides praise the success of the Jamahiriyah's efforts to stop the fighting among brothers in Somalia and Ethiopia. They reaffirm that the efforts made to bring about a reconciliation will not become futile unless the colonialists interfere in the African issues; consequently, the colonialists should take their dirty hands off Africa.

In the Arab sphere, the two sides call for the continuous development of fraternal relations and true cooperation between the African and Arab states. In addition to the common interest, this cooperation is of benefit to the peoples of the Third World, who are struggling for development and freedom.

Regarding the Palestinian cause, the two sides assert their revolutionary and unconditional support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for the return to their homeland and their right to independence and national dignity, in accordance to the will of this people, which alone has the right to determine its fate.

In the Islamic field, the two sides observe with deep regret that many peoples describe Islam as backward and contravening science and knowledge, generally speaking, as opposed to any democratic and social progress. The two sides, determined to work to restore the dignity of Islam, stress that the faith of Islam is an international and progressive fact that is based on moral and spiritual values that call for respect of man and for the continuous development of communities. Islam also calls for peace, freedom and solidarity in relations between peoples. The Koran emphatically calls for increasing social justice and the brotherhood of man, and for respecting the principles of democracy. It forbids man to do wrong to his brother.

The two sides believe that if states were guided in their laws by the humane teachings of the Koran, they would be able to honor social and historic values and the rights of the individual and the community, a matter which basically contradicts the philosophical principle and the various practices of imperialism and old- and neo-colonialism and exploiting capitalism.

The two sides stress their resolve to support and back the Moslem peoples in the political and economic fields, to enable these peoples to play their roles in the Third World to the benefit of mankind.

In the international field the two sides affirm their adherence to the charter and principles of the United Nations and consider it necessary to introduce a change in the organization's charter and the basic statute of the Security Council to conform with current developments in the world in accordance with the requirements and aspirations of the nations.

The two sides call in particular for the abolition of the veto.

During these talks brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi spoke about the principles of the Great 1 September Revolution and its achievements, both at home and abroad, represented in the emergence of the people's power, which had been achieved through conferences, and the people's committee, in accordance with part one of the Green Book. It was also represented in the need to solve the economic problem in the second part of the Green Book, a fact which was manifested in the achievements covering all aspects and successes of the Libyan Arab people against foreign monopolies. It also affirmed the continuing call of the people of the Jamahiriyah for the unity of the Arab nation, the African peoples and the peoples of the Third World, and for confrontation with foreign interventions and facts, and for continuing the support of peoples struggling for freedom.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure expressed his conviction that the Jamahiriyah enjoys the appreciation and respect of all peoples and governments of the world for its revolutionary sincerity and its great ability to confront all attempts aimed at encroaching on the helpless peoples in their struggle for progress.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure acquainted brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with the great changes that have taken place in the march of the Guinean revolution since September 1958. He explained to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi the great efforts which the Republic of Guinea is making to provide prosperity, establish social justice and control the national resources. He also acquainted him with the efforts which the leadership and people of Guinea are making for Africa and for consolidating Arab-African solidarity.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed admiration at the progress achieved by the Guinean revolution in the fields of economic and cultural development, for the prosperity of the Guinean people.

At the conclusion of the visit, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, expressed his profound thanks to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress and leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and to the Libyan Arab people for the warm fraternal reception accorded to him and members of his accompanying delegation in the Jamahiriyah.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure extended an official invitation to his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to visit the Republic of Guinea. The invitation was accepted with thanks and its date will be fixed later.

Issued in Tripoli on 23 April 1978

AL-QADHDHAFI, CHAD PRESIDENT ACT TO RESTORE CALM

LD241158Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 24 April--Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Chad President Felix Malloum are continuing, through messages and cables, to contain the situation in Chad and to restore calm in the country and confirm the conciliation agreement reached at the Sabha and Benghazi meetings.

MOROCCO

SAUDI INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVED IN RABAT

LD241311Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 15 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Rabat, 14 April--On Friday morning Prime Minister Ahmed Osman received Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad Abduh Yamani, who was accompanied by the Saudi Embassy's charge d'affaires in Rabat, at his offices.

The talks were attended by Information Minister Muhammad Larbi Khattabi and dealt with ways of strengthening the ties of friendship and regard uniting the two kingdoms.

In a statement to the press Dr Muhammad Abduh Yamani declared that he was making a courtesy visit and that he had given the prime minister Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abdul 'Aziz's best wishes.

TUNISIA

UGANDAN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE TO BOURGUIBA

LD250600Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] During his meeting tonight with the Ugandan labor minister, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira received a message from President Idi Amin addressed to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO OFFICIAL DECLARES RIGHTS OF SAHARANS

LD241510Y Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (liberated territories)--"The Saharan people have never been Moroccan and do not consent to be, just as they have never been Spanish and have refused to be, despite 5,000 Spanish soldiers stationed on their territory," Bachir Mustapha Essayed, assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO front, said yesterday.

"With the same determination, they refuse the Moroccan occupation. The Saharan people are sovereign and unquestionably have the right to be liberated and sovereign in their country and to defend the country's territorial integrity," he added.

"Colonial forces will not be able to bend their will, and it is high time that Bouabid and his likes know that tanks and F-5 aircraft will not be able to harm either their determination or their right to live a free and sovereign life.

"Morocco is therefore called upon to evacuate its forces of aggression and to respect the sovereignty and will of the Saharan people," the assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO front said.

"We know very well that the colonialists do not willingly admit the course history is following, nor will they be able to stand up against it indefinitely to continue with their intransigence. The national liberation fight of the Saharan people is continuing, and it shows daily that Morocco will not succeed [illegible] Bachir Mustapha concluded.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED BY YEDI'OT AHARONOT

TA211540Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT Weekend Supplement in Hebrew 21 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Interview with Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman by Etan Haber--place and time not given]

[Text] [Question] This week Refa'el Eytan, Raful, assumed office as chief of staff. What was taken into consideration in his selection for this post?

[Answer] There are stories about commanders who are desk officers and about commanders who are good in war. I don't accept the idea that there is a good commander in war and a good commander in peace. A commander must be a commander. Raful is, first of all, an army man, a leader, a guide. He is a person with great moral strength vis-a-vis commanders, and the rank and file. He is a militaryman who rose through the ranks to become chief of staff.

[Question] Were you two close in the past?

[Answer] I have never been a close friend of Raful although both of us belong to the war of independence generation. I was always on the sidelines, perhaps not so much on the sidelines, and watched him. I don't like to use the word "admire", nor will I use it. But he has many characteristics that can be admired.

[Question] There are people who say...

[Answer] I know. As always with every task and with every promotion in the military, there were debates whether Raful was able to do it. The debates always took place before he assumed a task of any kind--and eventually he was very much appreciated. Raful is a man of roots. He is a Zionist, an Israeli and a Jew. He is not observant, but is more Jewish than others I know. His view on anything connected with Eretz Yisra'el and Zionism is clear and explicit.

[Question] A chief of staff is not only an army man...

[Answer] Raful still has much rawhide left in him--this is a part of his beauty. From time to time an army, any army, needs a certain transition from a path outlined by previous commanders, perhaps not a 90 degree turn--but something that would break the routine. Raful will have 4 years to develop the muscle of the IDF. Did you see what he looks like? Look at Raful's solid body, watch his way of life. I hope he will be able to leave his personal stamp on the army.

[Question] You are quoted as having said, "I did have dogfights with Mota Gur, but eventually we had a soft landing." What kind of relations did you have with the outgoing chief of staff and how were your adieus?

[Answer] Very good, very good! Let us begin at the end: I want every cabinet member to begin his term of office well and to conclude it well. However, if there has to be a phase with question marks in it, that stage is better at the beginning. Thus it was between Mota Gur and me. I assumed my office of defense minister with fervor, with opinions on this or that matter. Some of these opinions Mota agreed with, on others we differed.

[Question] Then what happened?

[Answer] We entered into debates. I knew Mota from before, better than Raful, for example. In due course I learned to appreciate in Mota the thinking man, his political assessments. He is not one of those who view a problem through the sight of a rifle only. [paragraph continues]

I'm convinced that Raful will also be like this. All in all, except for a jarring here and a squeak there, I enjoyed Mota, particularly during the last months of his service. I'd like to say something else in this connection: I am sure that Mota and I are not parting. At some point in the future, in the characteristic way of the State of Israel, we shall meet again. Where? Mota and I will meet on the same side of the barrier.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, will you go to Egypt soon?

[Answer] I cannot answer this question with a 'yes' or 'no.' I can only say that I hope to go. I regard the Egyptian-Israeli contacts as one of the most important turning points in the life of our state in the last 30 years, perhaps one of the most important turning points in the history of Zionism. I had the honor of doing something similar to my uncle, President Hayyim Weizman, when we met with Faysal.

[Question] People will claim that you are exaggerating.

[Answer] I believe and I am convinced that the State of Israel with its 3 million inhabitants (and believe me, I want there to be more), within these or other boundaries, has to be a part of the Middle East. The positive Middle East. We have to find a way to live with the Arabs. We must! In the move of President as-Sadat, who came to Jerusalem, and in the reaction of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, I see the beginning of a road--with a positive ending. Destiny made me take part in this. I hope very much that we haven't reached the end of the road; we have perhaps reached only a turn in the road, but not the crossroads. I definitely hope to be able to return to Cairo in the near future, not to have a good time but for the sake of peace.

[Question] What is delaying your trip at the moment?

[Answer] There are things that have to be clarified between us and Egypt before talks can be resumed in Cairo.

[Question] What has to be clarified, and how?

[Answer] The sun rises in the east and sets in the west--and nobody asks how. You too had better not ask. If there happens to be darkness, light is necessary.

[Question] Mr Weizman, what impressed you during your visit to Egypt?

[Answer] On this poi t, I sometimes regret that I haven't the soul of a poet. I don't know what my words will mean to the younger generation, but my generation, the one which served in the British Army, those born in the twenties and the thirties, will understand me well. I served 4 years in the RAF and I spent 2 years in Egypt, on and off--in Cairo, on the Suez Canal, in Hulwan. For us Israelis who roamed in Egypt in the forties this wasn't a strange country. The local Jewry, the language, the city itself; for some of us Cairo was a second home.

[Question] A friendly home?

[Answer] Certainly. Suddenly, at the age of 18, we found ourselves far from home, for months on end. To me, in any case, this was a second home. I had relatives there, friends, especially in the Jewish community.

[Question] So what happens when one comes back?

[Answer] To those who served in the British Army, Egypt was an inseparable part of their personal experience--and then you become detached from it for 32 years, and on a nice morning one day you return to a place where you had ties. This is, first of all, a personal experience. To come back to Cairo--this is most interesting! You arrive in Cairo as an Israeli Cabinet member to discuss an issue which is so important to us. I left the city when I was a young airman in 1946--and I returned as defense minister. Many things have changed, much remained the same. When touring the city, you suddenly feel that around the next turn something is going to pop up that you have known since that time; you know this street; you are looking for a certain shop, a house, an address.

[Question] Were you looking?

[Answer] One of the first things I asked of my Egyptian hosts was to go to a certain address in Zamalek, where my mother's cousin used to live.

[Question] Did you go there?

[Answer] You bet--and I found the house. The Tunisian Embassy is now there. I didn't enter, but I very much wanted to knock on the door, wait for it to open and say: May I see the bathroom where I used to shower? I am not sure whether everyone will understand me, but I was very moved when we passed the metro cinema where I saw "Gone With the Wind" in 1942. This is not like being away from New York and then returning after a year. You come to Cairo after 32 years, after a number of wars, victims, destruction, after a conflict.

[Question] Do you tend to become emotional?

[Answer] I was certainly moved--there's no one who can say that he came to Cairo and was not excited. The personal experience is most extraordinary. The first time I flew to Cairo last year was in a U.S. plane. I was standing in the cockpit. When we approached Cairo I told the U.S. pilots: "There are the pyramids, there is Hulwan!" I had the feeling that I left only a few days ago, not more than 30 years ago. I already said that to the excitement is added the fact that you come as a member of the Israeli Cabinet, and you get off the plane and you see opposite you the Egyptian war minister, whom you know only from photographs, and you speak with him, you enter a helicopter with him and go to see As-Sadat--all this is a great experience which contains many wonderful things and many dangers.

[Question] Dangers?

[Answer] Certainly. It is apt to make you lose your bearings. On the surface everything may look neat and tidy, but you have to tell yourself: Look, friend, you are a minister in Israel's Cabinet, and you have to represent the position of the Israeli Cabinet without making mistakes even if you do have the ability, perhaps the strength, to do those things that may bring about peace to the people of Israel. After all, you are also liable to err. That was one of the reasons why I didn't ask to go out and see Cairo at first. I was quite tense and worried.

[Question] How do you become excited, 'Ezer Weizman?

[Answer] I think the blood is flowing faster. For instance: I was deeply moved while driving through Cairo when I saw the cafe "Gropi," the cafe where I used to drink many a cup of coffee and where I used to eat ice cream when I was 18 or 19 years old. People stood nearby and smiled. They smiled when they saw my excitement on entering a place I had known. Emotions also cause reactions from the public. [paragraph continues]

Handshakes, greetings--but I repeat and say: You have to take yourself in hand and understand that what is at issue is not Niagara Falls, which you have never seen in your life. You have to remember that you are in Egypt, which is still at war with Israel, an Egypt which wants to reach an agreement and a settlement with you. Even if in your estimate there is a degree of honesty in that desire, it behooves you to remember that what is at issue is an agreement that suits Egypt more than it suits you, and that the gap is still wide. Amid all the excitement you have to pinch yourself and keep telling yourself: Remember what is happening here!

[Question] This is exactly where the next question comes in. It is claimed that the Egyptians succeeded in "putting one over on you"--is this true?

[Answer] I have nothing against people who think so. I can only feel sorry for someone who thinks that the Egyptians managed to "put one over on me." I can only answer with a NO in capital letters: NO, that has not been the case. Interestingly enough, the Syrians, for example, claim that it was I who succeeded in "putting one over" on as-Sadat. Only yesterday it was stated in Damascus: "We're in trouble in Lebanon, and As-Sadat is inviting Weizman."

[Question] What happened?

[Answer] A very interesting and delicate process took place. We, in the State of Israel, have been hermetically sealed for 30 years. New York and London are much nearer to us than close-by Cairo. "Marks and Spencer" is better known to Israelis than "Gropi." We are closed off, and for this we are not to be blamed. In the past the frontiers of the Middle East were wide open. As a child I traveled with my parents to Damascus, to Beirut and to Cairo. It is interesting to examine what happened to nations as a result of this severing, to us, as well as to them. It was sure to create distrust among us as well, and then, after 30 years of wars, a hand is suddenly extended--and then the expected happens: You do not trust the extended hand. This mutual distrust creates a deep mental problem.

[Question] With you too?

[Answer] I won't touch on the subject. But one of my great debates with Mota Gur was on that subject. I think he erred in having given the interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT regarding As-Sadat's deceit, and not only because he was chief of staff at the time. He was wrong in his feeling, which was, perhaps, the feeling of many others. Instead of saying: Here, at long last, is the great opportunity! Thirty years we have been waiting for a dialog, 30 years we have been waiting for an Arab leader, and here a most serious Arab leader comes to Jerusalem in order to talk to you. The question then is what to say? If you immediately think that these are only tactics--then you better not talk with him at all, neither today, nor tomorrow, never. "If, however, you are ready to give this important matter a chance--then you have to say: Perhaps, really, some kind of a turning point has come. This doesn't mean that one should throw all caution to the winds. I chose the second road and I believe that we should give it a chance. My feeling is, also after the talks with As-Sadat, that Egypt wishes to reach a settlement. But I certainly can understand the Israelis who believe that I have had "one put over" on me in Egypt. They say: This is impossible. After 30 years of wars a minister of ours goes to Egypt and creates such a relationship and finds such a cordial atmosphere--this must be wrong. Something must be wrong. Well, I have to inform you: There's no such thing as having "one put over" on one. There is mutual respect there, appreciation and substantive differences of opinion. Such is the situation when I sit with Al-Jamasi, and so it is when I talk with As-Sadat. I have a common language with them. I didn't give them, nor do I hope, will I give them any reason to think that I hadn't talked with them sincerely, that I did not speak the truth or that I was "doing things behind their backs."

[Question] Does one get angry in talks with As-Sadat and Al-Jamasi?

[Answer] Sometimes the temperature rises and I am not known to be such a calm man. The talks with Al-Jamasi and President as-Sadat are interesting, rapid, lively. I sat for 2 hours with the president and on the next day for 1 hour more. This is quite a lot. Try to sit with someone for 3 hours. Those who claim that I have had "one put over" on me are, I regret to say, people who do not understand the importance of this hour. They are victims of complexes resulting from the estrangement and detachment of 30 years.

[Question] Where did the talks take place?

[Answer] The last talk was at the presidential palace near the dam, at (?Qanatar al-Hiriya). We were sitting in the shade of the big ficus tree in the middle of the yard.

[Question] Who was present at the talks?

[Answer] The Egyptian side is usually represented by the vice president, Husni Mubarak, and War Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi. In the last talk the government legal adviser, Aharon Baraq, participated on our side. It would be interesting to interview him about his impressions of the Egyptians but, as a legal adviser, he is sure to decline the interview.

[Question] How do you address As-Sadat, and how do the Egyptians address him?

[Answer] I call him "the president." The Egyptians who attend the talks call him either "the president" or else, "ra'is." As-Sadat smokes his pipe and drinks mango juice. Seldom does he turn to Mubarak or Al-Jamasi.

[Question] Is there any order to the talks?

[Answer] There isn't. In the former talks, it was As-Sadat who opened the discussion; in the last talks, I was the one. The Egyptians do not record anything during the talks. We, in most cases, take down what has been said. The talks are not being summed up. There is a very good atmosphere and it can be seen that As-Sadat is endeavoring not to create superfluous tension.

[Question] 'Ezer Weizman, what are we nearer to today--war or peace?

[Answer] I estimate that we are nearer to peace. The process begun last November is hard to turn back, for us and for the Egyptians. If we do not make mistakes, and if our moves and the Egyptian moves are right--I estimate that peace is unavoidable, although I wouldn't want to specify dates or specifics. When I say that we are nearer peace, one has to be careful and not make mistakes. That's why I said after Raful's appointment that I felt secure. With all the talk about peace, the IDF has to remain on the alert.

[Question] Mr Weizman, certain circles attributed to you derogatory names. Is it possible to say today that you in fact lead the camp of the "doves" among the "hawks"?

[Answer] It is about time we stop talking about "doves" and "hawks." I have already said this once and I am repeating this: A hawk is comparable to a fast plane and a dove to a slow plane. A fast plane can fly slowly while a slow plane cannot fly fast. Therefore, a "hawk" has a better maneuvering capability. I am flying at the moment with the speed that suits the situation. [paragraph continues]

As a hawk I can always, according to my wish and the situation, start an engine. I can also turn off the engine. A dove cannot do this. When one should enter Lebanon, the dove turns into a hawk, and when one has to go to Egypt to talk over peace with As-Sadat, the hawk turns into a dove.

[Question] Is there a unanimity of views in the government regarding what should be done in order to reach peace agreements?

[Answer] There are 19 different people in the government. There is unity on the one hand but there is also a legitimate argument on the other. All are united behind the view that efforts for the achievement of peace must be made. All support the peace plan. This is undoubted. Incidentally, Egypt has forwarded no peace proposal beyond the As-Sadat visit. The only concrete move and plan was ours.

[Question] Mr Weizman, you said that "the government has not done enough for the sake of peace." Are we doing enough now?

[Answer] I did not say that we have not done enough. I said "it is possible to do more." This cannot be answered with black or white. In my judgement both parties, the Egyptians and the Israelis, are now waiting for "the smoke of the battle" to dissipate, to use military terms. We were shelled, we returned a countershelling. Each made his own move, and just as with many other things, we should wait. We sincerely desire peace and I believe that the Egyptians also want peace, although they want this with very hard conditions from our point of view. It will be very hard for the two peoples to climb down from the tree of expectations. After the smoke dissipates we will know what is happening and where things lead.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, there have lately been publications regarding delays in arms consignments from the United States to Israel. Is this true?

[Answer] No. There have been no delays. It is true that in the talks in Washington I expected to get more than I did, but we get everything that has been agreed on between Washington and Israel.

[Question] Even after the use of the cluster bombs?

[Answer] The matter of the cluster bombs constituted an error. I was not aware of the letter of the Israeli commitment in connection with the use of the bombs. I have no complaints against anyone for not informing me on this matter. From the U.S. point of view, they have a "case" and I told them so. In such a case truth is the best thing. I repeat: Had I known about the existence of the letter of commitment I would have considered the matter differently.

[Question] How is it possible to prevent such errors or failures in the future?

[Answer] Arrangements have been made.

[Question] Some claim that President Carter is hostile to Israel. Was this your impression in the talk with him in the White House?

[Answer] I would not want to express an opinion about the U.S. President after an hour's conversation. I had total appreciation for the President, who deemed it necessary to invite me for a talk at an unusual time. We didn't waste a moment in that hour, neither he with his questions, nor I with my answers. It was a talk touching on the basic problems with which we are struggling.

[Question] A tough talk?

[Answer] I would not say tough but surely posing some questions to which there are no clear-cut replies at the moment.

[Question] Sir, Defense Minister, if we are offered U.S. guarantees for peace, will you support accepting them?

[Answer] I will consider the acceptance of U.S. guarantees under certain conditions. I do not think it is possible to say no outright just as it is impossible to say right away: "Yes, certainly."

[Question] What guarantees for example?

[Answer] I will not enter into this matter now but it is worthwhile remembering that one must be strong in a situation of peace as well. I repeatedly tell my American friends: As-Sadat claims that he gives us peace--very good. However, you, the Americans, have peace with the Russians. You have embassies and commercial relations and tourism. If this is so, why do you maintain such a large army, such a large navy, such a large airforce and the "Nimitz" that visited Haifa last week? Why do you have radar stations? The United States has recognized and secure borders--why do you have a radar station in Canadian territory? Why?--because you want to keep the peace between you and Russia. Likewise, we also want to keep peace between Egypt and us when we achieve it.

[Question] Mr Weizman, were it possible, would you have repeated all those actions taken during the last month in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] As long as the issue is current I think it is too early to indulge in public analyses. Both among the public and the communications media there are a few misconceptions and I would be happy if the interview did not include this question. Still, I emphasize: I do not reject any criticism written or spoken about this matter. It is everybody's right to view the situation from his own standpoint.

[Question] You cannot avoid answering this question.

[Answer] Nor am I trying to avoid it. Anyone familar with the wars of the State of Israel over the last 30 years cannot point to even one battle that has ended according to plan. Things always change during the battle, or are improvised, deleted or added. That happened in the independence war and in the 6-day war: we had a waiting period of 3 weeks for the purpose of planning--and I personally played a part in the planning--and it is worthwhile having you and others know; the entire conquest or liberation of the West Bank--Judaea and Samaria--was an improvisation! Even the conquest of Sharm ash-Shaykh--the very place that caused us to go to war--was an improvisation!

[Question] The Lebanon operation?

[Answer] When we went on the Litani operation we set ourselves targets which were close, but something happened: The U.S. administration charged like a bulldozer into the matter on Thursday morning, in my opinion erroneously--it was clear to us then that a UN force would enter the area--and then we had to decide where would it be best to have the UN force stationed--on the banks of the Litani or in another place, perhaps closer to our border. Your humble servant went with the chief of staff, and presented the matter to the prime minister, and we sat and discussed and decided. I heard people say that the political echelon was carried away in this matter by the military moves in the area, [that it] followed the army. What nonsense! It was agreed that it is better to have the UN force sit on the Litani--and that is how we got there, so that UN soldiers would sit there.

[Question] Was it a case of first think, then act?

[Answer] The Sinai campaign in 1956 was planned in detail by the Government of Israel, in cooperation with the governments of France and Britain, in order to seize the Suez Canal. The intention was to return the operation of the Suez Canal to those countries. The government that decided on this in Israel was a socialist government. Neither Gahal nor the terrible Likud were involved. Then, if you please, all my good friends from the socialist parties, look back 22 years, when David Ben-Gurion headed the state. I think it is still too early to judge what will happen in southern Lebanon.

[Question] The Lebanese civilians who were hurt? The vast damage?

[Answer] I am sorry about any Lebanese civilian who was killed in the battles. The heart aches to see the victims and the ruin in Lebanon, but this is a war in every sense. Southern Lebanon has in the last few years been a terrorist base--and it was clear that we would not put up with what was going on in there, and from there, for long.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister...

[Answer] Just one moment, I still have something to say on this matter: We had a war of attrition with Egypt. One million, please write it down, 1 million people fled from the canal cities. The city of Suez and the city of Ismailia were almost totally destroyed. To our deep regret, in the wars between ourselves and the terrorists innocent civilians are also hurt and suffered. How to put an end to this? Stop wars! How to put an end to the wars? This is the reason I am shuttling back and forth to and from Cairo.

[Question] Does that not seem strange to you?

[Answer] I lead a very strange life. On the one hand I take part in the Litani operation; on the other, I dash to Cairo. I would also ask you to note further facts following the Litani operation: The Syrians have not raised a finger, and that causes great discussions in the Arab world today. They argue about who came to the aid of the Palestinians and who did not. At the time of the battles in Lebanon, the Israeli defense minister leaves for Cairo, and lands at Cairo international airport in broad daylight, in public. He is welcomed by the president of Egypt, and the Syrian president is angry with As-Sadat for it. It seems that As-Sadat is also angry with Al-Asad. There is no need to say, and neither would I want to say, that we would accomplish something as a result of a conflict within the Arab world--but it certainly is interesting! The U.S. attitude? I cannot say they sent us bouquets of flowers--but while we are still sitting in Lebanon, the "Nimitz" arrives and anchors in Haifa for 4 days. That is not exactly anger!

[Question] Mr Weizman, would you do some things differently in the Lebanon operation?

[Answer] The target was right, but today I certainly would do a few things differently. I think this operation will lead to a change in the situation in southern Lebanon. I think the entry into all of southern Lebanon and the stationing on the Litani River, without getting involved with Syria, without cutting relations with Egypt, without worsening the relationship with the United States, that is an achievement--when we bear in mind that no military operation ever achieved all it sought to achieve.

[Question] Do you think that this is an achievement, despite the relatively large number of casualties on our side?

[Answer] I would not like to make balances on the basis of blood spilled. The heart aches over each one of the dead soldiers on our side--but this is a military operation, and in a military operation there are victims.

[Question] There were also casualties due to disciplinary breaches. Are you aware of the disciplinary matter in the IDF? What have you done with respect to this matter?

[Answer] Upon entering office as defense minister in June I demanded of the IDF several things in the field of discipline. Some things have already been implemented. I am not happy with some things in this area in the IDF. At least some of the criticism regarding this matter is correct. I am certain and convinced that the new chief of staff will place a great deal of emphasis on this matter.

[Question] Mr Weizman, the IDF will withdraw from most of the Lebanese territory at the end of this month. What will we do if the terrorists resume firing Katyushas on the northern settlements?

[Answer] What Katyushas? It could happen again that two boats with Fatah men infiltrate, God forbid. What would we do then? There are military solutions to these things, and every military solution has its political implications. We can always hit the terrorists, but then I hope it will not happen. Still, it must be mentioned that there are approximately 15,000 terrorists in Lebanon today, who have in fact oppressed and destroyed Lebanon. There is no Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanon. We have already been inside Lebanon for 1 month and where is their army? Why does it not go south? There is no army in Lebanon, because there is no sovereignty in Lebanon. If we are attacked from Lebanon, we will evaluate the essence of the situation, in order to operate against those forces that have no sovereignty that come from Lebanon.

[Question] In the last few weeks there have been two large demonstrations in Tel Aviv: "Peace Now," initiated by the officers' letter, and "Secure Peace," strengthening the government's stance. Which of these two demonstrations would you have joined?

[Answer] Listen, I would not have joined either one. I am not by nature a fan of demonstrations. In my [election] campaign I never appeared in a public place on platforms. Not that I do not like to talk, but I prefer concise talking, in a forum in which a more intimate contact can be achieved. I am glad I do not belong to the camp that demonstrates for peace. I belong to the camp that acts for peace.

MINISTER SHARON ON AS-SADAT REMARKS, CABINET UNITY

TA231737Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 23 Apr 78 TA

[Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon answers questions on the "Direct Line" program moderated by Yizhaq Golan--live from the studio]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Before we allow the dozens of listeners to pose their questions to you, Mr Minister, I would like to open with questions of my own. A week ago the Egyptian president praised Israel's agriculture. He made known his praise to the weekly OCTOBER during a tour along the Nile Valley. As-Sadat was examining at first hand the development plans aimed at finding new sources for producing food in Egypt. Has your ministry prepared plans for agricultural aid to Egypt when peace comes?

[Answer] I was happy to hear As-Sadat's remarks. I think we have excellent agriculture and an excellent settlement [movement]. It seems that there has been no element that has influenced the shape of society here, our lives here and our turning into a new people, more than the settlements operating here in the last hundred years. We did not work out plans [for aid to Egypt]. I hope the day will come when we will be able to cooperate with Egypt. I believe there are areas in which we can be aided by the Egyptians and there are areas in which we can surely help them. I believe in cooperation, I believe in peace between us and the Egyptians and I believe that for agricultural workers, for the people who were raised on the land, the possibility of making peace and holding a dialog may be easier. Therefore, I was happy about his remarks. I believe that just as we were prepared to cooperate with many other countries--the Agriculture Ministry has operated in various places throughout the world for many years and there is a special momentum on this subject now--we will surely be happy to cooperate with Egypt if conditions are created. As far as we are concerned, the will exists.

[Question] Did you, in the course of As-Sadat's visit, get in touch with his advisers on the subject of agricultural cooperation?

[Answer] We did not get in touch on the subject of cooperation. Nevertheless, we talked quite a lot about agricultural subjects. I must say that on the two occasions--that of the first visit and the visit of the Political Committee here--when I met Egyptians who were born into or deal with agriculture today, it was very easy for me to communicate with them about this. There is undoubtedly great interest in this matter on both sides.

[Question] In your visit to the Hazore'a farm in the Negev at the end of the week, you denied the published reports regarding the limitations placed on the authority of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs which you head. If this is so, my question is what authority was taken by the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs headed by the prime minister on the subject of settlement in the territories?

[Answer] Since I have already denied, I am exempt from denying again. In addition, since the prime minister also issued a statement a day before my own denial, then I am surely exempt from adding to the prime minister's remarks on the matter to the effect that no change has occurred in the authority given to me. Nevertheless, just as with every other committee, there are subjects that get their final treatment in committees and there are subjects that are raised in the government, at the request of a minister who is a member of a specific committee. There are also subjects which, due to their sensitivity and delicacy--we are all living in Israel and we all know the political obligations we face and there is no doubt that the settlement issue is a sensitive issue--necessitate a discussion that will not receive immediate publicity. There are such subjects and such subjects can surely, at a certain stage, be brought before the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. This does not constitute the taking of any authority.

[Question] In the course of that tour you also denounced the leaks of government circles that are directed against you, leaks that may harm settlement affairs. Why do government circles wish to hurt you and thus undermine the government's actions?

[Answer] I did not elaborate on this subject then, nor will I do so now. This is a question that should not be directed to me.

I believe that all cabinet members should get together to work as a single unit. This government is faced with very difficult problems. There are great things expected from the government and there are also people who think that the government did not live up to expectations. This is natural--the government was changed after 30 years. We found a very difficult situation in many spheres. In my opinion, this government has already made achievements, although it is very difficult to achieve things. In my opinion, what all should do is work with full cooperation and in as much harmony as possible.

[Question] Why is Arik Sharon picked on? There is hardly a week when nothing happens.

[Answer] I would not want to deal with this. What I can do is to say that just as I make every effort to cooperate on all subjects with other ministers and ministries, I hope that the government is going to overcome this and that all will act in harmony. [as heard]

[Question] Sir, Minister, in your remarks at the Knesset on 17 January, the day on which the joint Israeli-Egyptian Political Committee began its work at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem, the day on which the joint Israeli-Egyptian political committee began its work at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem, you emphasized settlement in Judaea, Samaria and the Rafah approaches as part of the government's peace plan. Some claim that such a plan does not give a chance to peace. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The Israeli Government submitted its peace plan, and it is worth noting that we are talking of an Israeli peace plan. It is always important to stress this. The component of settlement was an integral part of that plan. This plan was already presented to the Egyptians before the prime minister's visit in Ismailia. It was also presented to the Americans. It was brought to the attention of the Egyptians in the early stages and was also submitted to them in writing. The plan presented by Israel is farreaching. It is worth noting that no government in Israel during the last 30 years took the risk of submitting such a daring plan, although it is clear to me that every government in Israel wanted to reach peace.

[Question] I am talking about settlements.

[Answer] As I said, settlement was an inseparable part of the plan. It is clearly stated that this is an integral part of the plan. I would even say here that before the beginning of the work of the Political Committee in Jerusalem, before the arrival of the Egyptian delegation, we certainly agreed among us, in the government, that upon the arrival of the Egyptians or when we get to the discussion of the settlement issue, we would invite the Egyptian delegation for a tour of the various settlement sites in order to illustrate to them what precisely exists in every place. It should be noted that this subject was not at all raised as a subject for discussion in the course of the stay of the political delegation here. The Egyptian delegation returned home without raising this subject at all. Had it raised the subject, I can tell you in a most responsible manner, that they would have been invited for a visit, we would have shown them what exists and would have also explained why.

We took great risks in our peace plan, but one of the guarantees that we anchored was the settlement issue, of course. We did not view settlement in the Sinai as an economic element. We did not want to set up settlements, nor did we establish settlements in Qidmat Sinai in the past in order to increase agricultural exports. I must say: It is possible to laud Israeli agriculture and the settlers themselves for having made unusual achievements and this has indeed become a very important factor in the agricultural field and exports. However, this is not the reason for preparing the land for the settlements.

We have enough places where agricultural activities can be carried out, if we talk about the purely economic aspect. Settlement in these areas has a clear security goal and destiny. If we talk about the Sinai, the settlements are aimed at keeping in our hands a demilitarized zone, at least one narrow, 30-km strip out of the 200 or 220 km that constitute the width of the Sinai Peninsula. We will be calm and at peace to find that there at least a demilitarized zone will surely be kept. We also spoke about the inevitability of the existence of a buffer zone between the Sinai and the Gaza Strip and so on. These things were stated and clarified in advance. It is on the basis of this that the talks were held and that the establishment of the Military and Political committees was decided on. The issue of settlement was never the issue that impeded the process.

[Question] Since the session of the Political Committee we have seen that the issue of settlements was the issue raised by the Egyptians, by the Palestinians, by all elements, including the Americans, as the major obstacle.

[Answer] I think this is an attempt to divert attention from the major problems. What is demanded of us is very clear: we are asked to withdraw to the 1967 borders and to agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, in one fashion or another. In other words, it is demanded that a second Palestinian state be created; there is a Palestinian state already--Jordan is a Palestinian state. Now, in the talks held between us and the Egyptians--and there have already been a few talks between them and us--neither the Egyptians nor we ever thought that settlement will constitute an obstacle. We certainly remarked and said that we have solutions and proposals as to how it will be possible to maintain such settlement in the framework of the peace settlement. In any case, the things that disturb the progress of the talks certainly do not include the settlement issue. It is a fact that in the last 2 or 3 months Israel has actually not set up any settlements. It froze settlement. Could we say that any progress or movement has occurred since then, or has the line softened since then? This is not talked about any more today. Other things are being talked of today. Today the demand is for us to withdraw to the 1967 lines, to recognize an Arab-Palestinian state that will be set up at one stage or another.

[Question] Was it because of the freeze that the plan to set up 20 agricultural footholds or observation posts west of the Rafah approaches, on the Al-Arish-Al-Qusaymah line, was also shelved?

[Answer] There has never been a plan to set up 20 settlements. There have been repeated government statements on this subject. The decision taken with regard to the Rafah approaches is as follows: fleshing out and strengthening the settlements by adding settlers, water supplies and plots of land. Everything regarding these matters of adding lands to the settlements was carried out. As for the addition of settlers, this has not been done yet. What should be noted though is that no softening has developed in the Arab position as a result of the fact that no additional settlement was set up in Qidmat Sinai. I am speaking with full responsibility, it is the Arabs, it is not the settlements which are the bones of contention. On the contrary, in my opinion, if we reached the implementation of the plan proposed by Israel--a plan which remains alone--the Arabs have not proposed a counterplan to date while we say: Propose your own plan, we are ready to discuss every plan--if that very daring plan were accepted, then the settlements would be an extremely important component of keeping the peace in the area.

[Question] Sir, Minister, what is the settlement policy of your ministry both within the boundaries of the green line and outside them, namely, Judaea, Samaria, the Rafah approaches and so on?

[Answer] First, the matter of settlement in Israel--I think we do not have a greater enterprise than that of settlement, one that has contributed so much to everything happening here, to shaping the borders of the state, to the security of the state and to the creation of a new man in Israel.

[Question] Are the plans in accordance with these goals?

[Answer] I would say that settlement--despite the settlers being a nucleus whose percentage of the population is small; perhaps 7 percent of the entire Israeli population--is to a great extent a nucleus that has in fact led the Zionist movement, the population in Israel, and the State of Israel for tens of years, for a hundred years since the foundation of Petah Tiqva. Our settlement policy is naturally built on the trend to set up as many settlements as possible. We are faced with difficult problems. On the one hand, financial problems--the price of everything has risen and costs have increased while the budgets have remained relatively limited, to my regret. The other problems are, of course, political. Nonetheless, I would like to note that this government, despite accusations occasionally heard about the government's settlement policy, has done over the last year much more than was done by any other government for many years.

[Question] What do you mean?

[Answer] Since the government was established, 26 settlements within the green line were either set up or are in the process of being established or in the final stages of planning. Of these, 18 settlements are in the Galilee. This is something that had not happened for many years. In addition, the number of permanent settlements now being established and Nahal settlements being converted is 14.

[Question] Again, within the boundaries of the green line?

[Answer] This is mixed I would say--some within the green line and some beyond it. As for settlements beyond the green line--it is worthwhile remarking here that almost everything was decided on before As-Sadat's visit, since there is such sensitivity today as to when this happened--the number is 24. If I compare these numbers to the fact that over 10 years, since the 6-day war, 110 settlements were established, this number of about 50 settlements is impressive, in my opinion, is far beyond the usual practice in the past. In other words, the present government makes efforts in this sphere. I, as the man responsible for this sphere, and due to my regard of the settlement factor as the crucial and possibly the most important factor in our lives, certainly view this as a trend of supreme importance.

[Question] How many people are waiting to settle the land in Judaea, Samaria and the Rafah approaches now?

[Answer] The settlements set up in the Rafah approaches over the last few months--the number of people today ranges between 2,200 to 2,300. According to the data I possess today, adding the people who are going to settle the land or join these people, we will reach a total of 3,530. I am only talking about Judaea and Samaria. These are the people wanting to settle today, namely, approximately 1,300 more people are today knocking on the doors in order to join the existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Heavy pressure is today exerted by the Golan Heights settlements, which number 4,000 people today, to increase the population there up to 10,000 in 2 or 3 years. In my opinion there will be no shortage of settlers for these places. The same holds true for the Rafah approaches and the Jordan Valley--there are hundreds of people who want to settle in the Rafah approaches and hundreds of people, especially from the Moshav Movement, who want to settle in the Jordan Valley. We have no shortage of settlers.

[Question] That is, the moment the political freeze on settlement is lifted, you foresee a wave of settlements....

[Answer] No, no, what I am talking about now is fleshing out the existing settlements. There is a decision regarding Qidmat Sinai today, regarding fleshing out the settlements. I am saying--if this limitation is removed, let us say, I estimate that hundreds of settlers will join the existing settlements. I would like to emphasize one thing again: the future, life and development of Israel depends on its ability to come up with national objectives. It is impossible to see the State of Israel developing without national objectives. A central national objective has always been and will always be the objective of settlement. Therefore, in my opinion, every effort should be made to raise and cultivate this objective as a national and central one. Immigration also depends on challenges. Jews will not come to Israel just because life is more comfortable in Israel than in other places. The Jews will come to Israel only if they have a national challenge. One of the main tasks of the government today is creating national objectives, national objectives in the spheres of settlement and immigration, and in cultural, moral and spiritual spheres.

[Question] One last question to which I would like a short answer. Regarding the IDF operation in Lebanon, some claimed it was possible to carry out a limited operation, such as the retaliatory actions carried out by Arik Sharon at the head of small units in the past, and that the results of these actions were no less than those achieved in the large military operation. What is your reaction to these claims?

[Answer] I would not want to comment on the operation in Lebanon. What happened in the past is known, it was appropriate to the previous period. I would not want to comment on what has happened now.

[Golan] Thank you, Mr Minister.

DAVAR: U.S. OFFICIAL MISREPRESENTED SELF AT HARES CAMP

TA211134Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] (Passage omitted) Military sources said yesterday, in response to the statement by the U.S. Embassy, that after checking it has become utterly clear that the vice consul indeed introduced himself to the guard [at Hares camp] as a local worker, which is deception or cheating. The military sources said that the deputy consul entered the camp and talked with the soldiers. He asked them the identity of their unit. When asked for identification he refused to answer. An English-speaking soldier was brought to the place but the deputy consul did not answer questions about his identity or actions. After he was told that if he did not identify himself he would be arrested for entering a military area without permission, he produced his diplomatic passport and identified himself. When his identity was learned he was allowed to leave the settlement and a report was sent to the Foreign Ministry that brought it to the attention of the U.S. Embassy.

IRAN-FRG DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WARSHIP DELIVERIES

LD221135Y Hamburg DPA in German 0957 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Teheran--The possibility of deepening economic cooperation between the Federal Republic and Iran was the main topic in the talks which the delegation accompanying Federal President Walter Scheel had in Teheran today with Shah Reza Pahlavi. Earlier Scheel, who arrived on a state visit in Iran yesterday, met the monarch at Niyavaran Palace for a talk lasting over an hour.

It has since been learned from delegation circles that the monarch stressed the importance of interrelations between his country and Europe. The Federal president stressed Iran's moderating influence on the price policy of OPEC. This was a good basis for the world economic summit in Bonn at the beginning of July.

In the meantime, State Secretary Detlev Rohwedder from the Federal Economics Ministry met the Deputy Iranian War Minister, General Hasan Toufanian, for a talk about possible further deliveries of warships from the Federal Republic.

Also in Teheran are the chairman of the supervisory board of the Krupp Foundation, Bertold Beitz, and a member of the supervisory board of the Dresdner Bank and former federal economics minister, Hans Friderichs.

Shah on Purchases

LD221707Y Hamburg DPA in German 1615 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Teheran--Following his talk with Federal President Walter Scheel, the shah of Iran is convinced that the already considerable cooperation between Bonn and Teheran can be extended to other fields. "I can say that more than ever the doors are open for further cooperation," said the Iranian ruler today at Niyavaran Palace in Teheran in a talks with German journalists accompanying the Federal president on his state visit to Iran.

The shah announced that two further nuclear powerplants, apart from the two being built and four already planned, are to be purchased in the Federal Republic. He stated that further warships are also to be ordered in the Federal Republic. It was only recently that Iran ordered six German submarines. According to informed sources, negotiations are also underway on the delivery of four frigates.

Shah, Scheel Address Banquet

LD222244Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] The shah and the shahbanu held a banquet in honor of His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs Scheel tonight. At the dinner, the shah said in his speech:

[Shah--begin recording] Your Excellency, Mr President, Mrs Scheel, it gives the shahbanu and me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and Mrs Scheel to our country. You are now the guests of a country which is related to your country through firm ties of extensive cooperation in all political, economic, scientific and cultural fields. This closeness is not a new matter, since several centuries have elapsed since the start of our two nations' fruitful friendship and cooperation. Cultural relations between our two nations have, from the outset, been accompanied by close political relations which were established 450 years ago by Shah Esma'il, the founder of the Safavi dynasty, and Karl V, and have continued ever since. Our countries' cooperation in economic, industrial, scientific and technical areas is, fortunately, an all-sided and very extensive cooperation at present. For many years, the FRG was the world leader in the sale of goods to Iran and held second place in the buying of Iranian goods.

Regarding investment in the foreign private sector in Iran, this country consistently held first place during the 20 years from 1951 to 1971. In recent years, our country has reciprocally invested in FRG industries and economic institutions.

Your Excellency, the President, you are the prominent leader of a country which plays a fundamental role of the first order in the world today. This role does not need any mention with regard to your country's economic strength, but also in world political, social and cultural areas yours is an outstanding and important role, the playing of which has placed great responsibility on your shoulders. The determined and brave policy of the FRG in fighting international terrorism is a praiseworthy feature of your and your country's responsible international role. [end recording]

After the shah's speech, His Excellency Walter Scheel, the FRG president, said in his reply speech:

[Scheel--begin recording] Your Majesties, I am grateful for your very warm welcoming speech. You have described the long-standing friendship between Iran and Germany tonight in a way which has deeply impressed me and my compatriots here. The generosity and cordial hospitality which you have showed on our first day in Teheran shows that Iranian-German friendship has a long tradition, longer than some people think.

In recent years particularly, our relations have expanded on an unprecedented scale. The University of Gilan, which was established with the FRG's help, is an outstanding example of our cultural cooperation. Between 1973 and 1977, the volume of trade between the FRG and Iran increased 300 percent and reached DM 10.6 million. These figures are very telling, but undoubtedly do not cover everything.

Your Majesty, you have conducted your country's economic development with an admirable ability and determination; no one who is familiar with the history of Iran can deny the great progress attained by your country. Of course, no country can remain free of internal tensions and economic difficulties. We should each desire the other's good fortune in the great task of solving such difficulties--difficulties which more than likely will not lessen. But Iran's consistent economic development and the resultant close economic relations with my country are of an importance which transcends our two countries alone. I am talking about relations between the industrialized countries and those of the Third World. Relations between Iran and the FRG are most clearly indicative of the fact that we rely on you and you on us. Reliance in this framework means that we depend on each other. It is in the realization of this fact that our two countries have expanded their economic cooperation in various ways and in these relations we are inclined to favor each other. I regard this success which has been attained with great hardship as a reason for the efficiency and flexibility of the world economic order.

Peaceful cooperation between the North and the South is as vital for the FRG as it is for Iran in its particular role as an industrial and developing country. Therefore, we bear great responsibility in the current North-South dialog. I have for a long time been stressing this point to my people--that good relations between the industrialized and the developing countries are very important for our welfare.

Iran and the FRG bear particular responsibility for the preservation of peace. Your Majesty, with its foreign policy aimed at coordination and relaxation of tensions, Iran has turned into an agent in the preservation of security and stability in this part of the world, a region which is vital for world peace. This shows why our two countries enjoy such close cooperation, which is growing daily, in the area of foreign policy.

Scheel Visits Shiraz

LD231148Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Walter Scheel, president of the FRG, and his wife, who are visiting our country at the invitation of the shah and empress, left Teheran and arrived in Shiraz this morning. They were welcomed at the airport by Manuchehr Azmun, governor general of Fars Province, and other local officials. The distinguished guests then left by helicopter for a visit to Persepolis.

FOREIGN TRAVEL BY IRANIAN OFFICIALS CURTAILED

LD241134Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] The cabinet met today under Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar. At the end of the meeting, Daryush Homayun, minister of information and tourism as well as government spokesman, talked to our correspondent, Bahman Shirzad, about the points discussed at the meeting. He said that the government has decided to stop cabinet ministers and government officials from visiting abroad more than once a year. This decision does not include the occasions when ministers attend necessary international conferences.

INDIAN CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD231108Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At the invitation of the Imperial Iranian Navy, Vice Admiral Cursetji, chief of India's naval staff, and Mrs Cursetji arrived in Teheran this morning and were welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Rear Admiral Habibollahi, the commander of imperial naval forces, his wife and other Iranian naval officials.

BRIEFS

NEWS COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA--At the invitation of the managing director of the PARS News Agency (PANA), the director general of the Yugoslav News Agency (TANJUG) arrived in Teheran this morning and was welcomed by the assistant directors and directors of PANA. TANJUG's director general, who will stay in Teheran for 2 days, this morning visited various sections of PANA and carried out talks on news cooperation between the two organizations. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD]

INDIAN, DPRK AMBASSADORS DEPART--Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Two ambassadors who are leaving Iran at the end of their tours of duty today met Imperial Court Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda to say goodbye to him. The ambassadors are the Indian ambassador to the imperial court, K.R.P. Singh, and the ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Yi Hun-ho. [Teheran PARS in English 1005 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD]

PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL ARRIVES--Leopold Sedar Senghor, president of Senegal, and his wife arrived in Teheran today for a private visit at the invitation of His Imperial Majesty the shahanshah and the shahbanu. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES JATIYA SAMAJTANTRIK DAL PARTY

BK241719Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The government has given its approval to the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal [JSD] to function as a political party. BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha], quoting a press release of the JSD, says the decision was communicated to the joint convener of the party, Mr Shahjahan Siraj, by the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs today. With the approval of the JSD, the number of political parties in the country now stands at 20.

AWAMI LEAGUE REACTS TO 3 JUNE ELECTION DECISION

BK241401Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 24 Apr 78 HK

[Text] Dacca, April 24 (AFP)--Bangladesh's biggest political party, the Awami League, has criticised "the present government for suddenly announcing" the programme for the presidential election on June 3 and said the people had been denied sufficient time to get prepared for the election.

The 3-day working committee meeting of the party, which ended yesterday, felt that 42 days for a presidential poll was "too short" a time. It said the government's decision on the election "had caused doubts among the people about the objective" behind it.

The people were expecting a general election soon and not presidential polls, a party press release said, adding "the people did not want the presidential type of government."

The party did not say clearly whether it would have a candidate in the June 3 elections, but put forward certain demands to be fulfilled before the presidential polls. The demands included release of all political detainees, repeal of the political parties regulation, freedom of the press, withdrawal of the ban on some political parties and the lifting of martial law.

Describing the concept of a sovereign Parliament as opposed to the president holding all executive powers, the Awami League said the sovereignty of Parliament would be a misnomer if the chief executive was not made accountable to Parliament and if the House had no authority to remove him.

BK241345Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, April 24 (AFP)--Moni Singh, chief of the Banned Communist Party [CPB], was released from detention yesterday from Dacca's central jail, the official agency BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha] reported.

The 78-year-old leader who is known for his pro-Moscow policies, was arrested in Dacca in October last year following a coup bid in Bangladesh to overthrow President Ziaur Rahman's martial law government. The CPB and two other parties--the Democratic League of deposed and convicted President Khandakar Mushtaque Ahmed and the National Socialist Party--were banned.

No explanation was given for the release of Mr Singh, but the news came on the eve of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Tabarak Hussain's departure for Moscow later today for talks with Soviet officials on bilateral relations. His release also coincided with President Zia's announcements allowing open political activities and fixing the date for a presidential election on June 3.

INDIA

DESAI COMMENTS ON U.S. NUCLEAR FUEL ISSUE

BK250908Y Delhi ISI in English 0850 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Following is the text of the statement made by Prime Minister Morarji Desai in Rajya Sabha on April 24 in responsetto a calling-attention notice regarding the reported decision of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to refuse licence to supply enriched uranium for the Tarapore Atomic Power Plant and the steps the government propose to take to keep the Tarapore plant functioning:

At the outset I would like to correct the honourable members who have given the calling-attention notice in that the U.S. nuclear commission has not refused the licence for the supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapore power plant, but they have referred it back to the U.S. administration that on account of equality of votes they have been unable to come to a specific decision. The matter now rests with the U.S. President. But according to the American law, even if the U.S. President decides to authorise the export, the matter will have to be laid before the U.S. Congress for 60 working days within which the U.S. Congress may annul the President's action. In other words, it would mean that if the President takes a decision in favour of authorising the shipment we have to wait for 60 working days within which the U.S. Congress can annul the President's action, but if they do not annul the President's action it will remain confirmed.

I should like to explain that the question of supply of enriched uranium is regulated by an agreement for cooperation between the governments of the United States and India dated 25 October 1963, followed by a contract between the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission acting on behalf of the Government of the United States and the Government of India dated 17 May 1966. The Atomic Energy Commission of the United States has been abolished and now the matter rests with the U.S. administration on the recommendation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I would not trouble the honourable members with the details of the provisions of the agreement and the contract. Under the provisions of these documents the U.S. Government is bound to provide us with all the fuel for Tarapore up to 1994, and at the same time they bind us not to obtain the required fuel for Tarapore from any other source during this period. There is also the provision in the contract to the effect that if the applicable domestic laws or policies of the United States with respect to the ownership and supply of such nuclear material for use by the American domestic distributees be changed, the parties agree to consult with each other to determine the modification of any requirement of the contract in order to conform to the laws and policies in force. At the same time it provides that nothing contained in the relevant article shall affect the obligation of the U.S. Government to sell all of our requirement of enriched uranium for Tarapore atomic power station nor would it enlarge the financial obligations and responsibilities of the Government of India to the Government of the United States as provided in the contract.

To my mind, therefore, it is quite clear that neither the domestic laws nor the domestic policies of the United States can affect the supply of Tarapore's requirement of enriched uranium and consequently both the delay in the supply of enriched uranium for purposes of Tarapore and whatever the circumstances the refusal to supply such requirements would be a breach of the agreement [sentence as received].

Under the present requisitions pending with the U.S. Government, supplies were due in September 1977 and are due in April 1978, June 1978 and October 1978. The supplies of September 1977 have not reached us, and another installment of supplies has become due. I am sorry that I am unable to appreciate the delays in processing our requisitions. The procedure regarding reference to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should have been resorted to in full recognition of the need for timely compliance with our requisition. We have held patience for so long and even the promise of the President of the United States made within the precincts of this august house in January last does not appear to have weighted with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in their deliberations over this matter. I have no doubt that the U.S. President, actuated as he is by high moral purpose and in conformity with his obligation under the agreement and contract and in fulfillment of his promise, will reach an early decision. But the requirements of laying his decision before the Congress will delay the supplies at least for another 3 months. This situation in itself is not alarming because I am assured that the present stocks of fuel will be sufficient to operate one of the two units up to about 1980 and another a little beyond 1980. The interregnum gives us sufficient time to evolve alternative methods of making up for the default of the U.S. Government should that become a lasting feature of the implementation of the agreement and the contract.

Nevertheless, I should like to make it clear that it is with considerable disquiet and disbelief that I view delay in compliance with our requisition of enriched uranium for the Tarapore plant, let alone the fact that refusal of supply would be a breach of the agreement. Such a delay has occured not only in the supply of enriched uranium but also in regard to our request for a joint determination to the safeguard ability of our reprocessing facility as envisaged in the cooperation agreement. This has resulted in the reduced generation of power and has prevented us from utilising the residual enriched uranium and the contained plutonium which not only has put us to substantial loss, both from the material and monetary points of view, but our own development has received a setback. After the situation inregard to supply of enriched uranium against our requisition is cleared, I propose to take up this question with the U.S. administration. So far as the supply of enriched uranium is concerned, I am taking up the matter with the U.S. President.

For the time being, therefore, we have to wait for such action as the President may take in order to clear our pending requisitons. I have already asked our Atomic Energy Commission to examine every alternative avenue to keep up the supplies of fuel for Tarapore plant in case the uncertainties of supplies from the United States become a permanent feature. In coming to this decision, I have taken fully into account the obligation of the United States to supply us with fuel and their refusal being a breech of the agreement. I am conscious that any such refusal would bring to an end both the agreement for cooperation and the contract. We cannot allow such an eventuality to interfere with our programme for development of atomic energy for the purpose of providing fuel for our power plants. I hope the House will view this matter in the light of this clarification.

VAJPAYEE REMARKS ON U.S. URANIUM SUPPLY IN DETROIT VISIT

BK250856Y Delhi ISI in English 0837 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in Detroit on April 23 that the process of normalisation of relations between India and the United States, which gained momentum with President Jimmy Carter's visit to India, had received a "setback" because of the refusal of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue a license for the shipment of enriched uranium for the Tarapore plant, reports PTI.

Vajpayee, who is in the United States attending a special session of the UN General Assembly, paid a brief visit to Detroit where he was given a reception by the Indian community. He addressed the community and also answered questions.

Vajpayee said it was surprising that in spite of the very clear and unequivocal statement by Prime Minister Morarji Desai that India would not make nuclear weapons even if the whole world were to do so, the United States should insist on India accepting "full-scope safeguards".

He said the nuclear weapon states were continuing to stockpile weapons. There were also reports of clandestine supply of fissionable material to South Africa and Israel. "It is in such cases that arrangements of safeguards need to be tightened up, and not in the case of India which has voluntarily renounced its nuclear option."

Vajpayee said it would be difficult to convince the common man in India about the inordinate delay in the supply of uranium, particularly when President Carter himself announced the U.S. decision to release the fuel while he was addressing members of the Indian Parliament.

Vajpayee said it was a question of fulfillment of contractual obligations undertaken by the United States. "The supplies due in September 1977 have not yet been released, and other installment of supply has become due. Eighteen percent of the Gujarat and Maharashtra electricity are met from the Tarapore plant. The delay thus adversely affects the day to day requirements of the people."

KUNDU HOPES U.S. WILL KEEP ITS PROMISE ON URANIUM SUPPLY

BK250857Y Delhi ISI in English 0842 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India sincerely hopes that U.S. President Jimmy Carter will keep his promise to India and supply the 7.5 tonnes of enriched uranium urgently needed for the Tarapore Atomic Power Plant, Somarendra Kundu, minister of state for external affairs, said in Bhubaneswar on April 24, reports PTI.

Kundu, who was talking to newsmen, said that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] had "referred back to Carter the application for export license for the shipment of the enriched uranium following a two-two vote in the commission.

Under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of the United States, President Carter had the power to override the negative vote of the NRC, Kundu said.

Kundu said there was no threat to pollution of the Ganges waters on account of the missing nuclear powerpack planted on the Nanda Devi peak in 1975. However, he added "as a measure of abundant precaution", the union government would send a team of scientists to the peaks to study the possibility of pollution.

Kundu said he would be reaching Geneva on April 28 to lead Indian delegation to the International Conference on the Law of the Seas currently in session there. Kundu said India was of the view that the advanced countries should extended their cooperation for the exploration and utilisation of minerals under the sea beds.

TIMES OF INDIA RAPS U.S. COMMISSION DECISION ON URANIUM

BK241617Y Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Apr 78 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "U.S. Blackmail"]

[Text] In finally turning down India's request for 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium for Tarapore, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has disregarded all norms of international relations. It has repudiated unilaterally America's contractual obligation to supply this fuel for the nuclear power station at Tarapore. It has ignored the fact that the newly adopted legislation, which restricts the supply of nuclear materials only to countries which accept the so-called fullscope inspection, comes into effect only towards the end of 1979. And it has openly and blatantly discriminated against India because only the other day it approved the sale of 1,000 lbs of enriched uranium to a number of west European countries. Incidentally, the new U.S. legislation specifically required these members of EURATOM to open fresh negotiations with Washington in respect of the existing agreements on the supply of enriched uranium by April 9 and they had, under France's leadership, refused to do so. The act does not contain any such provision in respect of this country.

Under the American law, President Carter is entitled to overrule the commission, and he may do so in view of the categorical commitment he made during his recent visit to New Delhi. But nobody need be surprised if he fails to act, because he is caught in a web spun out of his own arrogant self-righteousness. In any case, his decision will be subject to the approval or disapproval of the Congress within 60 working days, and it is a distinct possibility that those self-appointed guardians of a "stable world order" will not oblige this country even if President Carter feels inclined to honour his commitment to it. His decision is, however, relevant, especially in view of the prime minister's scheduled visit to the United States next June. For it will make no sense for Mr Desai to undertake the journey if it turns out that he is dealing with a President who is either too weak or too vacillating to honour a solemn undertaking.

The supply of 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium would not, even if it had gone through, have taken India off the hook where its earlier decision to build Tarapore with U.S. assistance has landed it. That would have only helped it to buy a little more time to decide its next move. It is beyond doubt that it could not have obtained further supplies from America. Thus, the regulatory commission's decision, however worthy of condemnation for its disregard of norms of behaviour between two sovereign states, has in substance only brought forward the date for a clearcut decision. New Delhi must either surrender to what clearly constitutes blackmail or develop an alternative fuel cycle or prepare to close down Tarapore. It can no longer entertain the illusion that the Americans prize friendship with this country sufficiently to honour their contractual obligations or treat it on a par with their west European allies.

NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES 11-DAY VISIT

BK250916Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista, left Patna for Katmandu today at the end of his 11-day official visit.

Earlier, in an interview with the AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent, Mr Bista described the relations between India and Nepal as excellent. He expressed the hope that these relations would further grow to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

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